inside this issue...

Fees unveiled
The proposed fee level and financial support for students, p5

Meet the Deans
Introducing the staff who'll head up the new Schools, p7

Taking the greener route
The new Travel Plan and Car Park Management Strategy, p10
Teacher training graded ‘outstanding’

Loughborough has received the highest possible grade from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) in a recent inspection of the University’s secondary initial teacher training provision.

This is the third consecutive time since 2005 that the University’s teacher training has been graded as ‘outstanding’ in the formal inspection process. Loughborough was awarded a Grade 1 for both ‘overall effectiveness’ and ‘capacity to improve’. Grade 1 represents ‘outstanding provision’ and means that Loughborough maintains its Category A status as an outstanding provider of initial teacher education.

Loughborough University trains secondary school teachers in Design and Technology, Physical Education and Science. The one year full-time PGCE provides practical professional preparation for teaching the 11 to 18 age range, and is designed and delivered in partnership with approximately 70 schools in up to ten surrounding local authorities.

Pedal it Pink

Eight members of staff from imaging dented their cycling gear recently, when they took part in the Pedal it Pink challenge in aid of the Breast Cancer Campaign.

The women cycled an impressive 26.2 miles – the same distance as a marathon – at the event, which took place at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham.

Michelle Cunningham was the driving force behind the team. “We all know someone who has been affected by cancer, and we also have a colleague who was diagnosed with breast cancer this year, so when I saw this opportunity I thought it would be very worthwhile. We take part in the annual Wear It Pink day to support the cause but undertaking this challenge was one step further,” she said.

“I’d like to thank all the ladies who volunteered to take part and all those who sponsored us. The ride took between one hour forty minutes and two hours forty, but we all completed the challenge.”

Some of the bikes for the event were lent to the women, free of charge, by local firm Pedal Power and by the University’s campus-based bike shop.

Altogether the Loughborough team raised £2,200 for the charity.

Undergraduate Prospectus out now

The Undergraduate Prospectus for 2012 is now available.

The production of the Prospectus involved staff from both academic and service departments and the Marketing and Communications team would like to thank all the staff and students who contributed to the publication.

The online version can be viewed at www.lboro.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/ and additional hard copies are available by contacting Karen Roobrough, T: 222186, E: K.R.Roobrough@lboro.ac.uk

Calling all finalists

Don’t forget to encourage final year students to take part in this year’s National Student Survey (NSS), which runs until the end of April.

The survey provides the University with important feedback on what it’s doing well, as well as areas that students think could be improved. And the more students who take part, the more information we have – and we can become even better!

THE Best Student Experience!

“One university seems to have the edge when it comes to an excellent all-round experience. Top of the poll – for the fifth year in a row – is Loughborough University, which excelled in respect of its sports facilities, extra-curricular activities, campus environment, facilities, social life, students’ union and library.”

Times Higher Education

Loughborough has topped the Times Higher Education (THE) magazine’s Best Student Experience poll for the fifth year in succession.

The league table reveals the views of thousands of undergraduate students on the factors that matter most to them, from the quality of teaching to student facilities.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Shirley Pearce, says the result is a fantastic achievement. “We work closely with our Students’ Union to ensure that we provide an all-round experience that equips our students for every aspect of their life and careers,” she said. “This poll is well-deserved recognition of the continued hard work of all staff at the University and all the Students’ Union in delivering this first-class experience.”

Lucy Hopkins, President of Loughborough Students’ Union, added: “This survey is so important to students, as it takes into consideration the overall experience universities offer and not just their academic achievements. “Increasingly, as well as academic excellence, universities must offer extra-curricular and volunteering opportunities that enable students to develop as people. I am proud that Loughborough has such a recognised track-record of producing well-rounded students who have the skills and experience to set them up for life.”

The email signature has now been updated to include the latest THE Best Student Experience logo. Go to https://internal.lboro.ac.uk/service/marketing/unwired/ for instructions on how to use it.

Professor appointed to House of Lords

Professor Emeritus Ruth Lister, Professor of Social Policy, has been appointed as a member of the House of Lords and took up her seat as a Labour peer on 1 February.

Ruth has been Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at Loughborough since October last year, having joined the University in 1994. Prior to that, she was Professor and Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies at the University of Bradford for six years, and between 1971 and 1987 worked for the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), a national campaigning charity, spending the last eight years as its director.

Professor Lister was awarded the CBE in 1999 and elected as one of the founding Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences the same year. She was instrumental in the award of Loughborough University’s fifth Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2005 for its contribution to social policy.

In 2000 she was elected a Fellow of the British Academy and this year received a lifetime achievement award from the Social Policy Association. She was also a member of the National Equality Panel, established by the then Minister for Women and Equality, Harriet Harman.

“[Professor Lister] has been Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at Loughborough since October last year, having joined the University in 1994. Prior to that, she was Professor and Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies at the University of Bradford for six years, and between 1971 and 1987 worked for the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), a national campaigning charity, spending the last eight years as its director. Professor Lister was awarded the CBE in 1999 and elected as one of the founding Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences the same year. She was instrumental in the award of Loughborough University’s fifth Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2005 for its contribution to social policy.”

“The Vice Chancellor, Professor Shirley Pearce, said that this recognition was well deserved. “Ruth Lister has long been at the forefront of the incredibly important discussions and developments that have taken place surrounding social policy issues in the country. This is wonderful recognition for her continued hard work,” she commented. Professor Lister’s official title is now Baroness Lister of Burtsett.

School launched by esteemed graduate

The School of Business and Economics has been officially launched by Sir Peter Bonefeld, the former Chief Executive and Chairman of the Executive Committee of British Telecommunications plc.

Sir Peter is a Loughborough graduate and also holds an honorary doctorate from the University.

Dean of the School Professor Angus Laing said at the opening: “Loughborough is operating at the cutting edge of academic research in key areas, but our work is also intimately connected to the world of practice, having a direct impact on business and industry managers, policy makers and global organisations. The formation of the new School will help us to consolidate our position as one of the leading institutions across these areas.”

The new School brings together the portfolio of activity previously managed by the Business School, the Department of Economics, and the Professional and Management Development Centre, to strengthen its position as an international leader in research and teaching across management, business and economics.
Will Spinks to leave Loughborough

Will Spinks, the University’s Chief Operating Officer, is to leave Loughborough at Easter to take up the post of Registrar and Secretary at the University of Manchester.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Shirley Pearce, said: “This will be a great loss to the University but I am sure you would all like to join me in congratulating Will on this new role which will also allow him to work closer to his home in Cheshire.”

Will took up his position as Loughborough’s first Chief Operating Officer in 2007.

“In his time here Will has made a huge impact in the development of the service functions and the commercial activities of the University. The work he has done provides us with a strong framework for the future,” Professor Pearce added.

Until a replacement is appointed, Caroline Walker will act as Chief Operating Officer and Paula Powditch will act as Director of Finance in the interim period.

PR award for publication

The University publication Making a Difference – annual review 2009 has beaten off fierce competition from the public, private and voluntary sectors to take Silver in the Best Publication category of the 2010 CIPR (Chartered Institute of Public Relations) Midlands PRFame Awards.

This publication, which was published last summer, was developed to showcase the pioneering research, first-class teaching and cutting edge enterprise activity being undertaken at Loughborough and to reflect the impact of that work on society – a measure being increasingly used by Government and higher education funding bodies.

The print publication acts as a ‘pointer’ to the more extensive website – www.lboro.ac.uk/makingadifference – reflecting the increasing importance of online publications.

The ‘Making a Difference’ theme was also used last June at the meeting of University Council, which was revamped last year to allow the University to engage more effectively with its external partners and promote its achievements and developments to them.

Both the print and online publications were produced in house by Marketing and Communications staff.

Ian Cairns, Director of Marketing and Communications, said: “This is a fantastic achievement for everyone who worked on the print and web publications, and on the ‘Making a Difference’ themed County court earlier this year, especially as we were up against competition from outside the HE sector.”

Have you got something to say?

If you’ve got some news that you think other staff might like to hear, then let us know. Printed news@lboro is supported by an online version, so your news can be added to the internal staff web pages at any time throughout the year. Just email news@lboro.ac.uk

Tuition fee proposal announced

Since the Government first indicated it was considering lifting the cap on tuition fees, the University has been giving the issue a great deal of very serious consideration, with staff working with representatives of the Students’ Union to determine the package the University intends to offer future students.

Loughborough has now announced that it is proposing to set a tuition fee of £3,000 a year for all full-time Home and EU undergraduates starting their degree programmes in 2012.

As part of this it has also indicated its commitment to providing a range of financial support for students, which will total almost £2million in 2012-13, rising to over £3.5million a year by 2015-16. This will ensure that qualified students have the opportunity to study at Loughborough, irrespective of their background or their ability to pay.

For students from less well-off backgrounds, £3,000 of financial help will be available for each year of study. This includes an accommodation discount of £1,000 a year to help them take full advantage of the on-campus accommodation – a crucial element in the University’s unwavering student experience.

This proposal reflects the high quality of education Loughborough offers and, importantly, the all-round experience, which equips the University’s students and graduates for every aspect of their life and career and is a key factor in helping to attract the very best students in the UK.

Although the income from fees must be considered alongside other sources, including the background of significant cuts to higher education funding, the package the University has outlined will help it to enhance further the quality and safety of education and it offers Loughborough students.

The proposals were agreed by the University’s Council at the start of this month and will shortly be submitted to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) for their approval.

OFFA will inform the University in July whether it has agreed to the outlined plans for both the fee level and the support package.

Welcome to Loughborough

The University’s orientation programme for new staff has been changed, following feedback from participants.

Now called Welcome to Loughborough, it lasts just half a day and is followed by the chance to have lunch with members of the University’s senior team.

The changes have been made to make the event accessible to more staff, particularly those who work part-time, and to minimise the time attenders have to spend away from their everyday role. Rather than focusing on the past history of the University the programme now concentrates on the present-day and future direction.

The tour of the University, which was previously included in the orientation, is now a separately bookable session open to all staff.

Welcome to Loughborough can now be supplemented by information available online at www.lboro.ac.uk/newsstaff

Details further of all the programmes run by Staff Development can be found at www.lboro.ac.uk/service/sd/
New Deans appointed

Last year it was agreed that the University should move from its present three Faculty structure and establish ten academic Schools. Plans for the move are progressing on schedule, and the first key appointments – the Deans for the new Schools – have now been made.

The Deans will officially take up their roles, for a period of three years, from 1 August 2011, but they are already playing an integral part in the development of the new Schools.

Each Dean is responsible for ensuring that their School maintains and further develops its academic excellence and its international standing in research, scholarship, teaching and enterprise.

All the Deans will also sit on the new Academic Leadership Team (ALT), which will enable them to develop a close working relationship with the Vice Chancellor, the Provost, the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Finance. ALT will have overall responsibility for the delivery of the University’s strategic plan.

Other key appointments for each School that will shortly be made are the Associate Deans of Research, Teaching and Enterprise, Heads of Departments and Operations Managers.

Each School’s senior management team will then determine the School’s support structure, in conjunction with colleagues in support services.

For the most up-to-date information on the restructure, go to www.lboro.ac.uk/uni-new-structure

Changes to services

The Careers Centre has become the Careers and Employability Centre, to reflect the changing nature of its work and the growing importance of graduates being able to demonstrate they have acquired the right employability skills and experience during their time at university.

The Counselling Service and the Disabilities and Additional Needs Service (DANS) also merged from 1 October last year, following the retirement of Jenny Bell, the former Head of the Counselling Service. The service will now be known as the Counselling and Disability Service (CDS).

Harassment and bullying

The University wants to eliminate all forms of harassment and bullying and foster an environment where staff, students, visitors and contractors can work, study and live free from intimidation, aggression, coercion and victimisation. Such behaviour is unacceptable, discriminatory and, in certain circumstances, also unlawful.

The University has a policy on harassment and bullying, available at www.lboro.ac.uk/harassment

It also has a support network called Confide, which is comprised of members of staff who have been trained in how to deal with incidents of harassment and bullying. Confide members are available to talk to anyone in confidence and will offer support, advice and assistance. They are willing to discuss any incidents or problems, no matter how serious or trivial they may seem. For an informal, confidential chat with a member of Confide, email confide@lboro.ac.uk

The project is being jointly funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and industrial partners.

Launching the Centres, David Willetts said: “These new Centres will generate a new wave of engineers with the knowledge and skills to become future business leaders and create new innovation and economic growth for the UK.

“They focus on key areas of advanced manufacturing, which are vital to the UK’s major industrial sectors including the aerospace and automotive industries. These talented young innovators will help fuel future economic growth for the UK.”

While on campus Mr Willetts was also shown the University’s Additive Manufacturing labs and spent time talking to representatives from the Students’ Union Executive, learning more about Loughborough’s system of student programme reps and how academic programmes are shaped using feedback from students.

The Wolfson School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering is to support the automotive and aerospace industries.

Loughborough is a research partner, along with the universities of Birmingham and Nottingham and TWI Ltd, the operating division of The Welding Institute.

Professor Rob Parkinson, Head of the Wolfson School, said he is looking forward to welcoming the first students to use it this coming autumn. “It’s an exciting project and one that will further strengthen our ties with industry. The Centre will mean that we can work with our industrial partners on core research that they have identified could be of benefit to their business. Some of the projects may be mutually beneficial to a number of these partners while others will specifically help just the one organisation.”
Cuts in funding

In October 2010, the Government announced, as part of its Comprehensive Spending Review, that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), which is responsible for higher education, would face a reduction in its funding of 28% over the next four years.

As a consequence, the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE), informed universities in February that in 2011-12, the overall budget for higher education would be reduced by £682 million, or 9.5%, on the previous year.

The impact of this on Loughborough’s funding allocation for 2011-12 has been as follows:

- The funding for teaching has decreased by 3.89% overall.
- The research funding distributed through HEREF, known as QF (quality-related) funding, has been reduced by 3.2%.
- Overall, our total grant allocation has been reduced by 3.65% (£2.2 million). With inflation running at 4%, the cut in real terms exceeds 7%.

The cut in funding for 2011-12 is on top of a cut of £1.5 million in the current year, making recurrent cuts of £3.7 million overall.

The Vice Chancellor said that although the cuts are disappointing, and are in fact greater than the average for the sector, they were not unexpected.

“We had already started planning how to manage these reductions in funding and have a number of Value for Money projects in operation across the University,” Professor Pearce said.

“We are operating from a strong foundation, and whilst we are well placed to respond to these changes, we will need to make reductions in expenditure. At the same time, however, we must continue to deliver excellence in teaching, research and enterprise, and it is impressive that despite these difficult times we are continuing to do just that.”

To sponsor Ginny visit her JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/Ginny-Franklin. Donations will help the Association continue supporting people, running awareness campaigns and funding essential research.

Someone in the UK has a stroke every five minutes - that’s around 150,000 people every year. It can happen to anyone at any time in their life and the consequences can be devastating. It’s the third most common cause of death in the UK and is the most common cause of severe disability.

Pedal power to Paris!

Academic Librarian Ginny Franklin will be cycling from London to Paris in May to raise funds for the Stroke Association.

“The Stroke Association provided us with much-needed support when my grandad had a stroke, so it’s very close to my heart,” explains Dr. Gin.

The ride will take Ginny four days, during which she’ll cycle an average of 85 miles a day.

“Spending consecutive days in the saddle will be challenging, but it’s for an excellent cause!” she says.

University’s development of researchers recognised

Loughborough has been awarded the HR Excellence in Research (HEREF) award by the European Commission, in recognition of its commitment to ensuring good working conditions and career development for researchers.

It is one of just thirteen UK universities to have received the honour, which was presented by David Willetts MP, Minister of State for Universities and Science.

“Now that I am back in the research environment, it is right that as we put research at the heart of our plans for future prosperity, we prioritise the development of excellent researchers able to capitalise on the impact of that research.”

Long service awards

At the end of last year, twenty members of staff were presented with a certificate and a gift of their choice to the value of £150 to mark 25 years with the University. This was in celebration of their years of service. They were:

Anne Acosta (School of the Arts); William Betts, Colin Morgan, Karen Scottell and Stephen Smooty (Facilities Management); Roger Byans and Patrick Kiddy (Sports Development Centre); Pietro Cipolla, Marina Cole, Caroline Davis and Jane Neumont (Imago Services); John Pickstock (Design School); Jagged Singh, Robert Temple and Dr Robert Young (Within School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering); Gareth Smith (School of Business and Economics); Michael Smith (Civil and Building Engineering); Mark Snape and Gary Waig (Electronic and Electrical Engineering); and Dr Wadulla Yassif (Computer Science).

One recipient, Colin Morgan, a keen supporter of the University’s Cycle2Work scheme, put his money towards a new hybrid bike.

“I’ve been cycling the eight miles to work from my home in Thringstone for the last three years, whatever the weather!” he said.

“I started cycling as a way to keep fit, but I soon saw it could bring other benefits, so I decided to start raising money for Diabetes UK.”

An insulin-dependent diabetic himself, Colin took part in the 2010 Diabetes UK London to Paris Cycle Challenge, which began the gruelling 210-mile journey in Greenwich, finishing in front of the Eiffel Tower just two days later, raising more than £3,400 for the charity as a result.

“All of us taking part in the ride had a connection in some way to diabetes and about a third of us suffered from some form of the condition. Treatment for diabetes has come on in leaps and bounds over the years and I’ve certainly benefited from that, being a type one diabetic. I was very keen to give something back and to help raise money for Diabetes UK’s research appeal.”

Next on Colin’s fundraising list is a solo ride from coast to coast this summer, Morecambe to Bridlington, through which he would cover 170 miles in two days including camping out overnight.

“The NHS currently spends around £10 million a day on treating people with diabetes, and I’d be delighted if they could spend this money elsewhere. So we need to continue raising funds.”

She said: “I feel that ergonomics is something that people should take time to better understand as it incorporates a wide range of health issues that people might not know about. I think a lot of students will find ergonomics to be a fascinating area of science and design.”

Loughborough is regarded as the home of ergonomics in the UK. Not only is it the base for the IEHF, formerly the Ergonomics Society, which aims to raise awareness internationally of ergonomics and its applications, but Loughborough is also the only UK university to offer an undergraduate degree in Ergonomics.

Sport for all

Are you good at golf, tip-top at tennis or passionate about poker? If so, then Team Loughborough needs you!

From 14 to 17 July Loughborough will host the UK Corporate Games 2011 – a multi-sport festival which allows companies and organisations of any type and size from all over the UK to compete against each other in a range of sports. They provide a fantastic opportunity for businesses to encourage a healthy and physical activity as part of corporate life, and the University is putting together a team of staff, students and alumni to compete.

All across the country, employees from some of the UK’s biggest businesses, such as John Lewis and ASDA, as well as some smaller local organisations, are already in training for the event. And with 22 sports on offer, there really is something for everyone.

You can compete in badminton, basketball, cricket 8s, dragon boat, golf, hockey, karding, netball, poker, rugby 7s, running, soccer, soccer 5s, soccer 6s, softball, squash, swimming (long distance), table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, touch and volleyball.

Helping to cement its leading status, at the end of last year the Environmental Ergonomics Research Centre, based in the Design School, opened its extensively refurbished facilities.

Guests were given a tour of the new laboratories by Dr Phil Wickers, who is a renowned expert and wildlife and landscape photographer, give a lecture on the challenges faced by those who operate in extreme expedition environments.

The new laboratories incorporate a combined smoker suite, where people can be exposed to extreme heat or cold, combined with low oxygen levels to simulate altitude, noise and different lighting conditions.

Dr George Havering, Professor of Environmental Physiology and Ergonomics, said: “More than £1.3 million has been spent overhauling the facilities to ensure we can offer our students technology and research equipment that is state-of-the-art.”

The initiative aims to encourage a step-change in the way that universities across Europe recruit, manage and develop researchers. In the UK, institutions can demonstrate their alignment with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for their Recruitment by implementing the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. This was launched in 2008 to recognise that research is crucially important to the UK, not just to the success of academic institutions, but to the growth of the country’s economy and society.

Professor Ken Parsons, Pro Vice Chancellor for Research, said Loughborough was proud to have received this prestigious mark. “In order to maintain our position as one of the UK’s leading research universities we must continue to attract and develop the very best researchers in the country. The HR Excellence in Research badge is clear recognition of our strong commitment to this.”

The epicentre of ergonomics

Loughborough MPs Nicky Morgan saw one of the University’s pioneering inventions in action at the start of the year when she visited the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (IEHF), which is based in Loughborough Design School.

The Third Age Suit was originally developed by ergonomists at the University for the Ford Motor Company, to help them understand the needs of older drivers who use their cars. The suit is now part of the Design School’s SHS (Sensorial and Kinaesthetic Interactive Simulation); Wearable Simulations programme.

Nicky Morgan was shown how the suit limits the mobility of the wearer, enabling them to experience first-hand how the ageing process would affect how they use equipment and products in everyday environments.

She said: “I feel that ergonomics is something that people should take time to better understand as it incorporates a wide range of health issues that people might not know about. I think a lot of students will find ergonomics to be a fascinating area of science and design.”

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You can compete in badminton, basketball, cricket 8s, dragon boat, golf, hockey, karding, netball, poker, rugby 7s, running, soccer, soccer 5s, soccer 6s, softball, squash, swimming (long distance), table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, touch and volleyball.

So if you want to help show the world just why Loughborough is the UK’s premier university for sport, contact Michelle Cunningham (M.Cunningham@lboro.ac.uk) in image for further information on how to get involved.
Last year, over 60% of staff took part in the University’s Travel Survey, which provided the Sustainability team in Facilities Management (FM) with more information about how staff get to campus, why they choose this mode of travel and, importantly, what more the University can do to encourage and support healthier, more sustainable travel.

The survey showed that 67% of staff presently come to work by car, and over 50% live within five miles of the campus. Encouragingly however, over 30% of respondents said they would consider walking or cycling.

All this information from the survey has enabled the FM team to update the University’s Travel Plan, which is now available online at www.lboro.ac.uk/sustainability/travel/plan.html

The Travel Plan, and why we need one

The five-year Plan provides the University with a set of targets and actions to ensure that staff, students and visitors can access the campus via a range of modes of travel. It aims to ensure that more staff are able to become less reliant on the car, and have access to alternative means of transport or are encouraged to walk or cycle.

The Plan is also an integral part of the University’s strategic commitment to sustainability. From 2013, all universities will have to provide regular reports to the Funding Council (HEFCE) on their transport related carbon emissions and the Plan is the University’s groundwork for this.

An update to the Travel Plan was also recommended by Charnwood Borough Council’s Scrutiny Panel on university entrances and parking policies. In addition it is a requirement of the planning permission for the East Park Design Centre.

One of the key aims of the Travel Plan is to reduce the level of car use on campus and as a consequence alleviate some of the congestion and parking problems that staff sometimes encounter. As part of this, the University has developed a Car Park Management Strategy, which outlines a new charging structure for those wishing to bring their cars on to campus.

It proposes that two types of permit are made available to staff – an annual one, based on the car’s emissions, and an occasional permit for those parking on campus only a few days a week.

The Strategy has been shared with the Trade Unions and their comments are now being considered. When the Strategy has been agreed by the relevant University committees, it is anticipated that the new parking arrangements will become operational later this year.

For further details and all the latest information on the Travel Plan and the proposed new parking system go to www.lboro.ac.uk/sustainability/travel

However, over 30% of respondents said they would consider walking or cycling. Of all the trips, travelling a total of 973,000 miles, 6% were on foot or by bike and 12% by public transport.

Source: Department for Transport

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At the same time, the Plan also looks to encourage the use of greener modes of transport, including cycle use and public transport. To support this, the University has developed a Car Park Management Strategy, which outlines a new charging structure for those wishing to bring their cars on to campus.

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The University has also recently completed an update of the Travel Plan, which includes a review of the current system and an analysis of how the University can improve sustainable travel options.

A number of actions have been identified to address the key findings from the Travel Survey and to support the University’s commitment to sustainability. These include:

1. Reviewing the current car parking system and introducing a new charging structure based on emissions.
2. Increasing the frequency of the cross-campus bus service.
3. Installing free electrical charging points for low-emission vehicles.
4. Encouraging staff, students and visitors to use alternative modes of transport or to walk or cycle.

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3. Installing free electrical charging points for low-emission vehicles.
4. Encouraging staff, students and visitors to use alternative modes of transport or to walk or cycle.

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For further details and all the latest information on the Travel Plan and the proposed new parking system go to www.lboro.ac.uk/sustainability/travel

The Key aims of the Travel Plan are to reduce the level of car use on campus and as a consequence alleviate some of the congestion and parking problems that staff sometimes encounter. As part of this, the University has developed a Car Park Management Strategy, which outlines a new charging structure for those wishing to bring their cars on to campus. It proposes that two types of permit are made available to staff – an annual one, based on the car’s emissions, and an occasional permit for those parking on campus only a few days a week.

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Honouring their talent

Over the years Loughborough has celebrated the work of some of the UK’s most creative artists by awarding them honorary degrees. Newsatlboro looks at some of the more recent awards.

Quentin Blake (2007) taught for many years at the Royal College of Art. He has received many awards and honours, including a CBE in 2005, and was appointed the first Children’s Laureate in 1999. Blake has illustrated over 300 books, including many of those by Roald Dahl, as well as writing and illustrating his own – www.quentinblake.com

Tricia Guild (1999) established Designers Guild, a London-based company that designs and wholesales furnishing fabrics, wall coverings, upholstery and bed and bath collections. She was awarded an OBE in 2008 for services to interior design – www.designersguild.com

Steve Bell (2006) has written and drawn the daily ‘If…’ strip in The Guardian since 1981, and has published 27 books and a number of cartoons for television. Belltoons.com created a number of cartoons for television – www.belltoons.co.uk

Lynn Chadwick was awarded a posthumous honorary degree in 2003. Born in 1914, Chadwick was one of the UK’s most significant post-war artists. He won the international prize for sculpture at the Venice Biennale in 1956 and was awarded the CBE in 1964. One of Chadwick’s most important pieces, The Watchers – one of a series of three – still stands on campus today, near the Edward Herbert Building (pictured in The Gallery opposite)

Roger Law (1999) was half of Luck and Flaw, the creative team behind the satirical television show Spitting Image, and has received many national and international awards, including BAFTAs and an American Academy nomination. When Spitting Image ended, Law moved into drawing and ceramics – www.rogerlawceramics.com

June Mendoza (1994) is a world-renowned portrait artist, who has painted a wide range of public figures, from Her Majesty The Queen to Sir Terry Wogan. One of her paintings of Sir Dennis Rooke, Chancellor of Loughborough for 34 years until 2003, hangs in the Sir Dennis Rooke Building on Holywell Park (pictured in The Gallery opposite) – www.junemendoza.co.uk

Bryan Organ (1992) studied at the then College of Art in Loughborough, now the School of the Arts, where he later became a tutor. He currently has 15 paintings hanging in the National Portrait Gallery. Several of his pieces can also be found on the University campus, including The Race Meeting (featured in The Gallery opposite), which hangs in the University Dining Suite.

From traditional concerts to contemporary commissions, Loughborough has a varied and vibrant arts programme, with events held throughout the year.

And for all the building artists out there, why not get actively involved in arts and culture at Loughborough?

Art classes
Painting, drawing and pottery classes available for all abilities. A 20-week programme commences each autumn. Contact Amelia Beavis-Harrison, E: A.Beavis-Harrison@lboro.ac.uk

University Choir
Open to staff, students and members of the community, the choir meets every Monday evening, 7–9pm during term time, in the Music Centre. No experience is necessary and new members are always welcome. There are no auditions and you don’t need to be able to read music.

Book Talk
Loughborough’s book club, run in partnership with the Library, titles are chosen by the group, and also selected from a shortlist of written work linked to the current season of art commissions from Radar, the University’s contemporary programme. The club meets every six weeks. Contact: Amelia Beavis-Harrison, E: A.Beavis-Harrison@lboro.ac.uk

For more information on the arts at Loughborough go to www.arts.lboro.ac.uk

THE LOUGHBOURGH GALLERY

Walk into any number of the University’s buildings or stroll through the grounds and you’re likely to find a whole host of artworks.

Newsatlboro takes a look at a small selection of the treasures that can be found across campus.
Danielle also made history last year, becoming the first Paralympian to compete for England and win a gold medal. She has developed a unique safety belt product – SeatBeltPlus – to provide additional safety and improved comfort for pregnant women. With her team of researchers she generated the world’s best possible protection to occupants. Each year, on average, there are more than 750,000 pregnant women in the UK, with the majority regularly using a car throughout their pregnancy. The team’s research revealed, however, that only 11% wore their seatbelts in accordance with Government guidelines.

“Not only is it uncomfortable to use a standard seatbelt,” says Professor Acar, “but you also worry about the damage it might do to your unborn baby if you were involved in an accident. I could see that there was a mismatch between pregnant car occupants and current seat belts and I wanted to resolve it.”

With her team of researchers she generated the world’s first ever computer model of a pregnant car occupant, with a detailed representation of a fetus within a uterus. She has developed a unique safety belt product – SeatBeltPlus – to provide additional safety and improved comfort for the pregnant occupant, without interfering with the safety and comfort of all other car users.

You can read more about Professor Acar’s research in the Autumn/Winter ‘08 edition of The View at www.lboro.ac.uk/thview

The Researchers

Serpa Acar, Professor of Design for Injury Prevention, has spent a number of years investigating how to make car seat belts more comfortable and safer for pregnant women. The work carried out by Professor Acar and her team is the world’s most comprehensive body of research in the area of pregnant women and motor vehicles.

Engineering Design for Injury Prevention

As part of the project, Professor Havenith studied human thermal physiology, or how people react to heat stress. He created body maps to identify where the human body produces sweat, and also examined how sweating is related to different exercise levels, varying climatic conditions, and different body types, genders and age.

More recently researchers from the Centre have announced their participation in a three-year project called PRISMETR (Protective Respiratory System for Pregnant Women in Industrial Environment) which could see the development of a new generation of wearable technology to prevent workers in hot industrial environments suffering from heat exhaustion. The work, which features a dynamic cooling system, is able to alert a worker and their supervisors when their critical heat limits begin to be exceeded. The results would be transferrable to other sectors, including first response emergency teams like firemen and paramedics.

www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/lds/research/groups/environmental-ergonomics/
Early summer. Although inflation is on an upward trend, however, it is still historically low. 0.5%, despite some members of the MPC wanting to raise it to cool inflation.

Average bills rose this year due to some major energy suppliers increasing their tariffs. Between November and December 2010, the cost of these rose by 2.8%, the largest increase since 1996, reflecting the sharp rise in the price of oil.

With costs on the high street rising and petrol prices hitting new heights, Professor Eric Pentecost from the School of Business and Economics explains the reasons why we’re all feeling the squeeze, and what the future might hold.

At the start of March, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is now the official calculation of inflation in the UK, was 4%, double the Bank of England’s target, while the Retail Price Index (RPI) was 5.1%. So what are the CPI and RPI and how do they affect us?

Both these indices are used to measure the cost of living in the UK. Each is made up of a ‘shopping basket’ of goods and services on which people typically spend their money. The price of every good and service is weighted, according to its importance in total households’ expenditure, so changes in the indices reflect the change in the average cost of the typical household’s shopping basket from month to month.

Many items, such as food and clothing, are included in both the CPI and RPI, but some are specific to each index. The RPI includes council tax, buildings insurance and the TV licence, which do not appear in the CPI, whereas the CPI covers university accommodation fees and international student tuition fees.

The RPI measure of inflation is also representative of the majority of private UK households, but excludes the highest earners and pensioner households dependent on state benefits, and includes expenditure both within the UK and abroad by UK households. The CPI, on the other hand, is representative of all UK households and foreign visitors to the UK, although only expenditure in the UK is measured.

But what’s caused inflation to exceed the Government’s target? According to the Office of National Statistics, the upward pressure on both the CPI and RPI over the last months of 2010 was as a result of four main factors:

Air transport – this was weighted higher in 2010 than in 2009, so the 42% rise in airfares between November and December 2010 had a large impact on the CPI than similar previous years.

Fuels and lubricants – the cost of these rose by 2.8%, the largest increase since 1996, reflecting the sharp rise in the price of oil between November and December 2010.

Gas – average bills rose this year due to some major energy suppliers increasing their tariffs.

Food – prices overall rose by 1.6% between November and December 2010, the largest ever recorded rise between any corresponding period.

So what does the future hold for inflation? On 10 February, the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to leave the bank rate at 0.5%, despite some members of the MPC wanting to raise it to cool inflation. Although inflation is on an upward trend, however, it is still historically low.

Given all the evidence, it’s unlikely we’ll see any rise in interest rates until the early summer.

Ten ways to save yourself money

1. Buy own-brand goods
   Supermarkets’ own-label products are often considerably cheaper than the well-known brands, and often it’s difficult to tell the difference between them.

2. Go to the market
   With fewer overheads, your local market will often provide goods at lower prices than the big name supermarkets. Last month, a kilo of British-grown apples cost £1.47 at Sainsbury’s; the equivalent of British-grown apples cost £2 at Loughborough market were significantly cheaper.

3. Ditch the take-aways and fancy ready meals
   “They may be convenient in our busy lives, but it’s often much cheaper, and healthier, to make your own, particularly if you make more than you need and freeze some for later.” says Mark Price, imaigo’s Head of Group Catering.

4. Consider a pay-as-you-go mobile
   Do you really use all the inclusive minutes and texts that come as part of your expensive mobile contract? If the answer’s no, then why not switch to pay-as-you-go. A phone can be bought for as little as £10, with calls costing around 25p a minute.

5. Give up smoking and cut down on alcohol
   With cigarettes costing around £6.50 a packet, work out just how much it’s costing you a month, and the cost of a glass of wine or pint of beer each day can soon add up. As well as the health benefits, just think what you could save if you cut down or quit.

6. Leave the car at home and walk or cycle
   Around 70% of all car trips are less than five miles, so why not take to two wheels? Public transport is still there in the future.”

7. Use your local library
   Don’t buy the latest blockbuster, borrow it from your library. “Recent research has shown that children who use public libraries are twice as likely as those who don’t to be above average readers,” said Claire Creaser, director of LISU, part of Information Science. “Leicestershire libraries have over 800,000 books to choose from, as well as a whole range of other services. It’s free to join, and supporting your local library now will help to ensure it’s still there in the future.”

8. Be an early bird
   If you’re looking to get away, book early. Low-cost airlines, and even train operators, regularly advertise cheap fares, but only a certain number of seats are available at the bargain prices and once they’re sold, prices rise. So get in quickly, says the School of Business and Economics’ Dr Claudio Piga, whose research interests include airline economics. “Especially if you are practically certain of the days and time of travel of your journey,” he adds. “And check if buying two one-way tickets is cheaper than buying a return.”

9. Do it yourself
   The TV schedules are full of programmes showing us how to DIY, so take inspiration and have a go. Local colleges often run courses to teach you the skills needed to tackle basic household repairs or your local DIY store can offer a wealth of guidance and advice.

10. Turn your unwanted items into cash
    Many of us regularly shop online, so why not sell online too? Instead of hoarding those rash purchases or unwanted gifts, advertise them for sale on sites such as eBay, or even the University’s very own For Sale and Wanted site.

Shepherds Pie Recipe

Serve 4

500g mince, finely chopped
35g oil
750ml-1ltr stock
2-3 drops Worcester sauce
75g cheddar cheese, grated
500g potato
Gravy browning (if desired)
1 tblspn tomato puree
1 tblspn gravy powder
1 tblspn flour
1 tblspn butter
1 tblspn gravy powder

1. Pre heat the oven to 220°C (180°C for fan ovens) / 400°F / gas mark 6.
2. Heat a little of the oil in a saucepan. Add the onion and carrot, cook until soft but not coloured. Then add a little salt and beef stock to add a little colour. Remove from the pan and leave to one side.
3. Return the pan to the heat and add a little oil. Brown the mince, add the tomato puree and then cook gently for around 20 minutes.
4. Add the flour to the mince and mix well to prevent lumping.
5. Carefully add the hot stock a little at a time. Simmer over a gentle heat for approx 15-20 minutes until meat is tender.
6. While the mince is cooking, prepare the mashed potato, add the butter and seasoning to taste.
7. When the mince is cooked, add the onion and carrot and mix well.
8. Add the Worcester sauce to the mince, check the seasoning and salt and pepper if required.
9. Add a good dash of gravy browning. If this mince is looking a little pale then spoon evenly into a suitable serving dish.
10. Carefully spread the mashed potato on top and sprinkle with the cheddar.
11. Place into the middle of the preheated oven for approximately 25-35 minutes until evenly glazed and hot in the centre.

Serve and enjoy!
Loughborough students deliver a sporting legacy for Zambia

A group of Loughborough students has met with the Zambia High Commissioner, Professor Royson Mukwena, to talk about the groundbreaking IDEALS project which is delivering sporting opportunities in his country.

Olivia Howard, Ella Hewton, Danielle Martin and Natalie Ekweogwu, along with Richard Smith and Royson Mukwena, to talk about the groundbreaking IDEALS project which is delivering sporting opportunities in his country.

Volunteers will also be required to help ‘kit out’ all Team GB athletes and their support staff who will visit Loughborough ahead of the start of the Games.

The volunteering programme will provide personal development opportunities, create new social and community networks and a highly skilled volunteer workforce able to support sport and local initiatives in the run up to the London 2012 Games.

More information can be found on the University’s new London 2012 website - www.lboro.ac.uk/london2012/
events

April
8 April, 7.30pm, Brockington Lecture Theatre
RSPB lecture – Bitterns in the UK
by Simon Wotton
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/loughborough

12 April, 7.30pm, Brockington Building
RAeS lecture – Concorde: from beginning to end
14 April, 7pm, Martin Hall
Concert: Ceil Rhys Matthews, Christine Cooper, John Kirkpatrick
14 April, 7.30pm, Sir David Wallace Sports Hall
Loughborough Lightning v Team Northumbria
www.loughboroughlightning.co.uk

Purple turbines may be safer for nature
PhD student Chloe Long, from Electronic and Electrical Engineering, found that painting wind turbines purple rather than the usual white or grey could be less dangerous for birds and bats, many of which are killed when they fly into the blades while hunting for insects.

May
11 May, 5pm, Stewart Mason Building
Inaugural lecture: Prof Laurie Cohen (Business and Economics)
www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural

14 May, 6pm, Netball Centre
Loughborough Lightning v Leeds Carnegie
www.loughboroughlightning.co.uk

18 May, 7.30pm, Cope Auditorium
Concert: Jack Liebeck
www.arts.lboro.ac.uk

25 May, 5pm, Wolfson Building
Inaugural lecture: Prof Weeratunge Malalasekera (Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)
www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural

June
8 June, 5pm, Stewart Mason Building
Inaugural lecture: Prof Paul Thomas (Chemistry)
www.lboro.ac.uk/inaugural

15 June, 7.30pm, Cope Auditorium
Dante Quartet
www.arts.lboro.ac.uk

Babies at risk
The needs of children suffering from abuse, including chronic, long term neglect, are overlooked by professionals in the drive to ensure the parents’ rights are properly respected and families are kept together, says Professor Harriet Ward from the Centre for Child and Family Research.

Celebrity sleuth
Dr Robert Knight from Politics, History and International Relations reviews Tom Segev’s new biography of the famous ‘Nazi hunter’ Simon Wiesenthal. Described by Dr Knight as a ‘well-researched and fair-minded biography’, the book makes it clear that Wiesenthal was a deeply flawed ‘cultural hero’; manipulative, vain and with an ‘excessive appetite for secretive machinations’.

The prefab returns, in trendy green form
First-time buyers could benefit if the Government and construction industry look to more innovative ways of producing affordable and sustainably produced and run homes, suggests a study conducted by Civil and Building Engineering’s Dr Chris Goodier for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The research examined sustainable and cost effective solutions to alleviate the UK’s growing housing crisis.

Standard of living
The Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP) has revealed that about seven million of Britain’s poorest people will see their spending power fall by a tenth over the next decade because the prices of essentials such as food, fuel and clothing are rising much faster than inflation. It also found that people living in rural areas typically need to spend 10-20 percent more than those in urban areas to reach a minimum acceptable living standard.