

University Notes

BY PETER MEECH

The big campus news of late has been the formal designation of Stirling as Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence. The First Minister, Alex Salmond, announced in May that the University will be the "gathering place" for a national network of excellence, providing training and support for high performance athletes studying throughout Scotland. The Scottish Funding Council will be allocating £600,000 to help create more flexible programmes for student athletes in both their academic and sporting activities.

Dr Ian Thomson, first director of physical recreation at the University and Bridge of Allan resident, said: "I would never have dreamed 40 years ago, when I came to Stirling, that a small Scottish university could achieve so much in sport. We have shown that it is possible to combine education with high performance sport through our sports scholarships scheme. This is welcome recognition of our achievements".



Diana Rigg, University Chancellor

Meantime, the University's 40th Anniversary events programme culminates with a Reunion Weekend on June 20-22. It will be an occasion for former students and others to come together to celebrate in the company of Dame Diana Rigg and alumnus Jack McConnell MSP. The weekend includes a gala dinner; a ceilidh; golf at The Carrick, Loch Lomond; a church service at Logie

Kirk; a barbeque and jazz.

The following week Dame Diana takes her final bow as the University's Chancellor, a post she has held for the past ten years. She will preside over graduation ceremonies at which she will confer an honorary doctorate on Bridge of Allan resident George Reid, former presiding officer of the Scottish Parliament.

Others honoured for their contributions in various fields are Stirling-born broadcaster Kirsty Young; singer-songwriter Eddi Reader; Baroness Stern, convener of the Scottish Consortium on Crime and Criminal Justice; Baroness Ford, former director of the Scottish Prison Service; and Jonathan Mills, director of the Edinburgh International Festival.

Journalist and broadcaster James Naughtie takes over as the new Chancellor later in the year.

From the *Stirling and Bridge of Allan Reporter* June-November 1908

Bridge of Allan Town Council - Motor Traffic

A letter was submitted from the Rev. Duncan Cameron directing the attention of the Council to the dust nuisance caused by the excessive speed of motor cars passing

through the burgh, notwithstanding the fact that the regulation speed was ten miles an hour. Mr Cameron said that if all the cars observed the ten miles limit the dust nuisance would be greatly modified. (July 11)



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