

# University Notes

BY PETER MEECH

Stirling was recently named the UK's top university as judged by overseas students. For the second year in a row the University headed the International Student Barometer's list of 93 institutions as 'a good place to be'. The results of the 2008 National Student Survey were also encouraging for the University, in particular the finding that 86% of final year undergraduates were satisfied with the quality of their course. This put Stirling in third equal position with Glasgow behind St Andrews and Aberdeen (the UK average was 82%). Other findings were generally very positive. The information gained will be used both to help applicants decide where to study and to enable the University to improve what it offers to students. This was the first time that the Stirling had taken part in the survey, conducted by the independent market research agency Ipsos MORI.

Work has recently started on the transformation of the University Library. The ambitious £13.9m project is expected to be completed by autumn 2010, which means that for the coming months some temporary disruption to normal services can be expected. The planned improvements will result in 'a vibrant, welcoming library, fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century', according to a senior administrator.



Dame Joan Bakewell

Among the new members of academic staff who joined the University this autumn, Professor Roger Sugden has a special responsibility as the founding director of the new Stirling Management School. He has extensive experience in local and regional economic and development policy within a multinational and global context. The new

school brings together the combined strengths of the former departments of Accounting & Finance, Economics, Management and Marketing.

Since his installation in October as the new Chancellor, Dr James (Jim) Naughtie has been quick to support the University of which he is now the figurehead for the next ten years. The evening before presiding over the November graduation ceremonies in the Albert Halls he gave a scintillating lecture, *Inside the Obama Election*, drawing on his own extensive assignments in the US for the BBC. To judge by the response of the packed campus audience, a Cancellarian lecture would be a highly popular addition to the University's programme of annual events.

The previous day another distinguished journalist and broadcaster, Dame Joan Bakewell, had spoken to equally enthusiastic listeners, when she gave a highly topical 2008 Hetherington Memorial Lecture entitled *Credibility Crunch: the media and morality*. An abridged version of the lecture was published subsequently in the *Guardian*, the paper which the late Alastair Hetherington edited from 1956-75. It can be read online at [www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/nov/20/bbc-television](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/nov/20/bbc-television).



**Reflexology - Therapeutic Massage  
Foot Specialist**

**Dr James McGee**  
74 Henderson Street  
Bridge of Allan  
FK9 4HS

**Allanwater**  
Chiropractic Clinic

Telephone 01786 831994  
[www.AllanwaterChiropractic.co.uk](http://www.AllanwaterChiropractic.co.uk)

British Chiropractic Association, General Chiropractic Council  
British Chiropractic Sports Council

- Sports Injuries • Back Pain • Headaches • Neck Pain •
- Soft Tissue Injuries • Repetitive Strain • Prevention •

**Stirling University Choir Concert**  
**Handel's Messiah**  
**Saturday 6th December**  
**Dunblane Cathedral 8.00 pm**  
**Tickets at the door:**  
**Students £6, Conc. £8, Full £10**



**Doune Woodyard Ltd**

Unit 2 Lochil Industrial Estate  
Doune  
Perthshire  
FK16 6AU  
Tel: 01786 841204  
Fax: 01786 841122  
E-Mail: [sales@dounewoodyard.co.uk](mailto:sales@dounewoodyard.co.uk)

**Suppliers of Timber, Interior Finishes,  
Sheet Materials and Fencing**

**Also a Large Selection of Hardware Supplies  
Available in our Shop**

**RTA Plant Hire**

Hire of Excavators 1-3 ton, Dumpers, Skid Steer  
Loaders  
Cherry Pickers and Many Other Items  
Phone 01786 841121 for further information and  
availability

**Hire of Motor Homes Now Available**