



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
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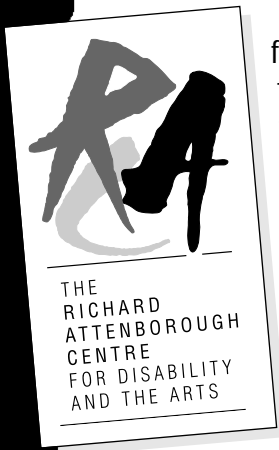
Leicester University

NEWS EXTRA • MAY 1997

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES, TO OPEN RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH CENTRE

Diana, Princess of Wales, will formally open Leicester University's award-winning Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts on Tuesday 27 May.

At the invitation of Lord Attenborough, the Princess will meet disabled students and see some of the pioneering work being undertaken in the new purpose-designed building which cost £2 million.



Most of the money for the Centre came through strenuous fundraising, both local and national, together with a contribution from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. But it was an award from the National Lottery which finally allowed building work



Photo courtesy of Leicester Mercury

to commence at the end of January last year.

Eleanor Hartley, Director of the Centre, said: "Both students and staff are anticipating this visit with

Continued overleaf

If you have an opportunity to be there, you can see the Princess of Wales arrive at the Richard Attenborough Centre, Lancaster Road, Leicester (opposite Regent College) at 11 am on Tuesday 27 May. She will be met by Lord Attenborough, who will introduce her to the Lord Lieutenant of the County and the Lord Mayor of Leicester, and she will be welcomed to the University by Dr Kenneth Edwards, Vice-Chancellor.

After a tour of the Centre, which is not open to the public on this occasion, she will leave at 12.30 pm, which will provide a second opportunity to see her.



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HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE: Lord Attenborough meeting students during an earlier visit to the Centre.



ACTING ON INSPIRATION: Lord Attenborough with the Centre's architect, Ian Taylor.

enormous pleasure. We all feel a tremendous sense of achievement now that the Centre is up and running and the presence of the Princess will be an endorsement of everyone's hard work."

Vice-Chancellor Dr Kenneth Edwards said: "The University is delighted that the Princess of Wales has agreed to open the Richard Attenborough Centre. The University is very proud of the success of the campaign to raise funds to provide a specially designed building in which ways of facilitating appreciation of a wide range of artistic activities for individuals with disabilities can be researched and put in practice. The visit of the Princess, who has a well-known and deep concern for those who are disabled, will

highlight the contribution which the Centre will make."

Lord Attenborough's involvement with the Centre which now bears his name began in 1991. In addition to being a major benefactor, he has been an enthusiastic and active patron ever since. He chaired the 1985 Committee of Enquiry into the Arts and Disabled People. He grew up in Leicester and is a Freeman of the City. His late father was Principal of the University College and was mainly responsible for the achievement of its Royal Charter of Incorporation as 'The

University College of Leicester'.

Speaking about the work of the Centre, Lord Attenborough said: "Uniquely, the special needs of disabled people have been placed at the forefront of the design. The architect, Ian Taylor, has come up with some brilliant ideas which make this building both beautiful and totally accessible. The new Centre will enable disabled students to engage and excel in every field of artistic expression. It will also welcome many thousands of visitors each year to its exhibitions and performances."

**FULL COVERAGE OF THE VISIT IN THE
JUNE ISSUE OF BULLETIN**

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