



## **For Immediate Release**

**15th January, 2015**

## **Media Release**

### **MATHEMATICS: UNLOCKING WORLDS**

Celebrating 150 Years of Mathematics and Beyond

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the London Mathematical Society (LMS), the UK's Learned Society for Mathematics. The inaugural meeting of the Society was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1865. To commemorate this landmark, the Society will be hosting a launch event at Goldsmiths' Hall, in the City of London, on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 2.00pm. The event will be attended by approximately 300 guests, including leading mathematical scientists, distinguished guests from other Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) organisations, industry, undergraduate students, teachers and school students, and will feature a number of talks on subjects directly related to mathematics and its importance to everyday life.

The LMS will for the first time broadcast an event online via live stream at [www.lms.citizenscape.net/core/portal/150-anniversary](http://www.lms.citizenscape.net/core/portal/150-anniversary), to broaden participation, engage a new generation of mathematicians, and encourage more people to better appreciate the value and relevance of mathematics to their own lives. Those unable to join the live event will be able to access a recording later via the same link.

The programme of speakers includes eminent mathematicians as well as those who use mathematics in exciting ways, all of whom are at the cutting edge of their individual fields. Their successes have contributed to, amongst others, the invention of machine learning for human motion capture in Kinect for Xbox, linking signals to masts that enable the use of mobile phones, and the mathematics used in making TV classics such as *Dr Who* and *Sherlock* and blockbuster films such as *Harry Potter* and the *Life of Pi*. The event will be presented by Maggie Philbin, the radio and television presenter well known for her work on *Tomorrow's World*, and, more recently, *Bang Goes the Theory*.

Professor Terry Lyons, FRS, President of the London Mathematical Society, commented: 'The London Mathematical Society had its very first meeting 150 years ago on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January and we are celebrating! It is fair to say that the achievements of mathematicians within the UK over the last 150 years have transformed the world in which we live, in the most profound and exciting ways. We are all now familiar with the contributions of individuals like Turing, whose seminal paper on computing was published through the Society's journals in 1937. In addition, he gave an invited lecture to the London Mathematical Society on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 1947. James Clerk Maxwell was a founding member who wrote down the equations that govern electro-magnetism (wireless). Today,

mathematics is again changing lives through its interactions with culture, data, medicine and many other areas.

'On Friday we will begin our celebration by drawing together internationally-leading players; we will start to learn through their talks why *Dr Who* and *Life of Pi* as well as our mobile phones and Xboxes depend so critically on mathematical imagination'.

### **Notes for Editors**

The **London Mathematical Society (LMS)** is the UK's learned Society for mathematics. Founded in 1865 for the promotion and extension of mathematical knowledge, the Society is concerned with all branches of mathematics and its applications. It is an independent and self-financing charity, incorporated under Royal Charter, with a membership of over 2600 drawn from all parts of the UK and overseas. Its principle activities are the organisation of scientific meetings and conferences, the publication of journals and books, the provision of financial support for mathematical activities, and the contribution to public debates on issues and policy matters relating to mathematics research and education. It works collaboratively with other mathematical bodies worldwide. It is the UK adhering body to the International Mathematical Union (IMU).

In 2015 the Society commemorates its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a large programme of events aimed at celebrating the contributions of mathematics to the UK, both historically and in a modern context. These events will take place throughout 2015 and will fall into three major themes: *150 years of the LMS and Mathematics*, *New Ways of Promoting Mathematics*, and *Mathematics as Part of Our Culture*.

The Launch programme will appeal to all levels of interest in both pure and applied mathematics, and adults and children alike are encouraged to access the live stream via the LMS website at [www.lms.citizenscape.net/core/portal/150-anniversary](http://www.lms.citizenscape.net/core/portal/150-anniversary). They are also encouraged to follow the LMS on Twitter (@LondMathSoc) to participate in the discussion surrounding this highly-anticipated occasion.

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