

## **BBC television presenter to deliver Annual Industry Lecture**

*University of Leicester to discuss 'Instincts, equations and sketchy solutions' with Jem Stansfield*

This year's Annual Industry Lecture hosted by the University of Leicester's Department of Engineering will be delivered by Jem Stansfield; presenter of the BBC's *Bang Goes the Theory*. The lecture entitled, 'Instincts, equations and sketchy solutions' is on Wednesday 10 February at 6pm in Ken Edwards Lecture Theatre 1.

Every year the Department invites a well-known engineer to deliver the special lecture on an innovative topic, and this year is no exception. Jem comes from an engineering background, having completed an aeronautics degree and a qualification in welding. He is best known for his unique creations including the world's first air-powered motorbike and boots that walk on water, which won him a *New Scientist* prize. He has made numerous television appearances, including *Scrapheap Challenge* and *Home on their Own* and has even utilised his engineering skills by creating special effects for Hollywood blockbuster movies.

Professor John Fothergill, Head of the University's Engineering Department commented:

"I am really pleased that Jem will be giving this lecture – his *Bang goes the Theory* programme on BBC has been inspirational and Jem's background in aeronautics and engineering is very much in line with the Engineering Department at Leicester.

"His toffee and powered rocket – that demonstrated so many of the principles of rocket design and energy conversion – was a masterpiece in presenting engineering ideas in an accessible way."

Jem is currently one of the presenters of *Bang Goes the Theory*, a programme which offers a hands-on approach to science, engineering and technology, testing theories and exploring the impact of science on our daily lives. The first series aired last summer and it is due to return for its second run in March this year. Jem is also the creator of the shockwave cannon and vacuum gloves that allow the wearer to scale buildings like Spider-man.

He commented:

"During the lecture, I'll be telling the story behind some of the most surprising and interesting machines that I've had to invent in the name of television. With clips and behind the scenes photos, I'll be looking at what drove the inventions – what was science, what was guess work and what was just plain dangerous.

"I'll also happily take any questions about anything, as well as chat about the need for engineers in special effects and entertainment."

The Department of Engineering's Annual Industry Lecture is taking place on Wednesday 10 February at 6pm. The lecture will be followed by a free buffet meal and drink which is sponsored by members of the University's Industrial Consultative Committee. Entry is by ticket only.

### **Note to Newsdesks:**

For more information, please contact Julie Hage via [jeh33@le.ac.uk](mailto:jeh33@le.ac.uk) or 0116 252 2537.

*Amy Cory*