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~ promoting the inspirational work of Dr Frederick, Frank and George Lanchester ~

Newsletter No.42

Honorary Doctor of Arts

November 2019

CHRIS CLARK - HONORARY DOCTOR OF ARTS

From DLOC Editor, Kevin Bennett: "It is with the greatest pleasure that I can announce that Coventry University has advised me that our own Lanchester Historian of the DLOC, Chris Clark, has had an Honorary Doctor of Arts conferred upon him."

From Coventry University: "Chris Clark is the world's foremost authority on the life and works of Frederick Lanchester, one of the United Kingdom's most important inventors, technologists and innovators.

Since the age of 14, when Chris started to restore his first Lanchester motor car, he has devoted himself to raising awareness of the Midlands-based engineer and inventor's achievements. Lanchester was a polymath. Some have described him as our own Leonardo Di Vinci because of his mathematical prowess, draftsmanship, and his flair for technological invention.

Chris founded The Lanchester Trust in 2010, a charity through which, as chairman, he has offered annual scholarships and prizes to students in engineering disciplines - and inspired others to explore the life and work of the Lanchester brothers.

He was instrumental in creating the university's Lanchester Interactive Archive. It takes the engineer's knowledge and creativity to a new generation through digital technology including augmented reality. The Archive, open to the public, sits in the heart of our university library which also bears Frederick Lanchester's name.

Chris has written extensively about Lanchester, compiling the first biographies of the industrial and technological pioneer for Oxford University Press. He has completed his two definitive volumes of 'The Lanchester Legacy' after decades of research, with another volume forthcoming.

Looking ahead, Chris has set new challenges. As Coventry city prepares for the UK City of Culture 2021, he has put forward ideas for a Lanchester sculpture in the city centre to mark the enormous contribution the inventor made to the Coventry automotive industry. He is also seeking to build a

full-size aeroplane from one of Frederick Lanchester's 19th century blueprints, which showcases his genius and was so ahead of its time.

We are delighted that Chris has such a strong association with Coventry University.

He is the university's Lanchester historian and registrar, and has worked with us for more than 30 years. His energy and knowledge are seemingly boundless - volunteering in the archive, offering teaching assistance and educational material, and even loaning his unique 1921 6.2 litre Lanchester limousine as a centre-piece for the Lanchester Library's visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

To this university - and our wider community - Chris is as inspirational as Frederick Lanchester. In recognition of his outstanding and ongoing contribution to the heritage and legacy of Frederick Lanchester, Coventry University, by decision of the Academic Board, has the privilege of conferring the Degree of Doctor of Arts, honoris causa, on Chris Clark."

