A major activity to celebrate the IMA’s 50th anniversary will be the Festival of Mathematics and its Applications, to be hosted in the Alan Turing Building, School of Mathematics at the University of Manchester. The event will bring together all elements of our broad community: academic mathematicians; mathematicians working in the corporate, industrial and business sectors; undergraduate and postgraduate students; teachers and lecturers; members of the general public with an interest in mathematics; school and college students and their families.

The IMA@50 Festival of Mathematics and its Applications will look forward to the next fifty years with an emphasis on youth. It will be the first hands-on festival devoted to mathematics in the UK, to be held over two days on 3–4 July 2014. The venue has been chosen both for its excellent facilities and to celebrate the close links between the IMA and the University of Manchester.

The Festival will comprise interactive exhibitions (from schools, industry, universities and learned societies), popular and academic talks, maths busking, debates, competitions and discussions, all with a theme of the fun, excitement and the amazing impact of mathematics on our world both now and in the future. The Festival will be free to attend, with something for everyone, from schools and families to celebrities and from academic mathematicians to industrialists.

The Festival will use the whole of the open access areas of the Alan Turing Building. Upstairs will offer sessions of talks/discussions principally aimed at IMA members. The half-day sessions will focus on the following topics:

Maths Education and Policy led by Professor Dame Celia Hoyles (University of London) and Professor Nigel Steele (Coventry University) on 3 July (am).

What has mathematics done for us? led by Dr Snezana Lawrence (Bath Spa University) and Dr Peter Rowlett (Nottingham Trent University) on 3 July (pm).

Mathematics in Industry led by Dr Robert Leese (Smith Institute) and Professor Alan Champneys (University of Bristol) on 4 July (am).

Mathematics in a Changing World led by Professor Robert MacKay FRS (University of Warwick) and Professor Peter Grindrod CBE (University of Oxford) on 4 July (pm).

On the evening of 3 July there will be a major public lecture entitled ‘Sex, Drugs and Sausage Rolls’ by Professor David Spiegelhalter, OBE, FRS, Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk. This will be preceded by a reception sponsored by Winton Capital Management®.

Attendance at the half-day sessions and the evening lecture and reception will be free, but prior registration will be necessary as numbers will be limited. There will be a charge to attend the IMA@50 dinner, which follows the public lecture by David Spiegelhalter. Web registration is now open – for full details see the IMA@50 Festival page (address below).

Downstairs in the Alan Turing Building there will be events for the general public, especially school students. On both days there will be a series of popular talks, given by well-known communicators of mathematics, as well as popular exhibitions that will include hands-on maths-focused displays. The latter will include displays, talks and activities by: the IMA; IMA Maths Careers Team; University of Leeds; University of Essex; University of Kent; University of Bath; University of Birmingham; University of Liverpool; University of Manchester; QMUL; Maths World UK (The UK Maths Museum project); Mathematics Millennium Project; UKMT; Further Maths Support Programme; Fun Maths Roadshow; Dr Maths; GCHQ; ClMathNet; Maths at Work (University of Salford); and Think Maths.

All IMA members are warmly invited to come to the Festival, which looks forward to the next 50 years of the IMA.

Chris J Budd CMath FIMA, I David Abrahams CMath FIMA, Paul A Glendinning FIMA and Edmund A Chadwick FIMA Festival of Mathematics and its Applications Organising Team

*About Winton Capital Management: Winton is one of the largest, most successful alternative investment managers in the world, and a leader in financial mathematics and empirical scientific research into financial markets. Winton was founded by David Harding in 1997 with an absolute commitment to employing advanced mathematical, statistical and computational techniques to develop systematic, quantitative, trading strategies for global futures and equity markets, a belief which still remains at its very core. Its unique company culture has fostered a first-class environment where innovative ideas can flourish and robust research is highly rewarded. The company now employs over 300 people, including 140 scientific researchers with PhDs and Masters Degrees, at offices in London, Oxford, Zurich, Hong Kong and Sydney.

Register at: www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/ima@50/

Corporate sponsors of IMA@50 Celebrations include: