

of freedom and and obstacle at a fixed position); this, too, involves singularity theory.

As a former Southampton research student I know that you are a very good lecturer and made intense use of some written notes of yours and of your book Differential Topology with a View to Applications (Pitman Research Notes in Mathematics, 9). Do you have plans for some more work in this area?

Thank you for the kind remarks. The book you mention is now 20 years out of date: it was written before the Lorenz equations, the Mandelbrot set and other now famous dynamical examples had been discovered or come to public notice. I would like to write an updated ver-

sion, but currently the pressure to publish research papers puts it at the back of the queue. Maybe when I retire ...

We will finish on a lighter note. As it happens with many mathematicians music is one of your great interests outside mathematics. Do you still play the guitar?

I have to say no, although I do take it out of its case every now and then. However, I still belong to the Southampton Classical Guitar Society after 25 years, and enjoy recitals of guitar or other plucked stringed instruments – including the Indian sitar. Now there's a project for retirement

David Chillingworth was born near Manchester, England in 1943 and was brought up in London. He graduated from Cambridge University in 1964 and stayed on to do postgraduate work. His Ph.D. dissertation was in low-dimensional topology (homeomorphisms of surfaces).

He has held academic posts at the universities of Warwick and Southampton where he has been since 1971. He has given mathematical talks in numerous countries and

spent several months at universities in Europe and USA, including visits to research institutes such as I.H.E.S.–Paris and IMA – Minneapolis.

These days he is attracted to applications of differential topology, particularly using singularity theory to study bifurcations of differential equations. He is the author of a very successful textbook, “Differential Topology with a View to Applications”, published by Pitman.

