

## **Open Forum 41 1979**

**Executive Producer: Roger Tucker**

**Contributors in clip: David Grugeon , Geoffrey Crowther.**

### **Clip transcript:**

#### **David Grugeon:**

The ceremony at which the charter was actually presented took place at the Royal Society. Everyone connected with the project was present; Harold Wilson, Jennie Lee, Vice Chancellors and politicians. The occasion took on a mood of academic ponderousness which gave no hint of the startling innovations contained in the traditional-looking document that was presented to Sir Peter Venables as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Then Geoffrey Crowther was installed as our first Chancellor, an appropriate choice with his famous report that noted how many have missed out on higher education.

#### **Geoffrey Crowther:**

The first and most urgent task before us, is to cater for the many thousands of people fully capable of a higher education, who for one reason or another, do not get it, or do not get as much of it as they can turn to advantage, or as they discover sometimes too late, that they need. Only in recent years have we come to realise how many such people there are and how large are the gaps in educational provision through which they can fall. The existing system for all its great expansion misses and leaves aside a great unused reservoir of human talent and potential.