

# Egham's vital role



**TEAMWORK:** The Particle Physics group at Royal Holloway

by **ANDREW HENDRY**

## **PHYSICISTS at Royal Holloway, University of London in Egham took part in one of the world's biggest experiments on Wednesday.**

Scientists from the particles physics group at the university are among those who have been working on the Large Hadron Collider project on the Swiss-French border, that recreated conditions similar to those in the universe immediately after the Big Bang.

The Royal Holloway team, which has been involved in the initiative since its inception, is one of about 150 university physics departments that collectively built the ATLAS particle detector installed in the

Large Hadron Collider ring, which weighs 7,000 tones – the same as 875 double decker buses.

Head of the Royal Holloway Centre for particle physics, Professor Mike Green, said: "We have been working towards this day for about 15 years and all that work will come to fruition over the next two or three years.

"Our knowledge of how the universe works will surely change as a result."

Leader of the ATLAS group at Royal Holloway, Dr Pedro Teixeira-Dias, said: "We are all truly excited about the prospect of finally getting a glimpse of whatever surprises nature has in store for us."

The Science and Technology Facilities Council has invested more than £500m in the ground-breaking project.