



The Royal Society
of Edinburgh

KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL



November 2016

Royal Medals 2016

Earlier this year, Her Majesty The Queen approved Council's recommendations that the RSE Royal Medals for 2016 should be awarded to Professor Angus Deaton FBA HonFRSE and Professor James Hough OBE FRS FRSE.

On Friday 9 December, HRH The Princess Royal will come to the RSE to present Professor Hough with his Medal (Professor Deaton received his in October). The 2016 IEEE/RSE James Clerk Maxwell Medal will also be presented, to Professor Geoffrey Hinton, University of Toronto Canada. The Award will be accepted on his behalf by Professor Barry Shoop, President IEEE. The presentations will be followed by a Reception and lunch for Medallists, Fellows and guests.

Fellows are most welcome to attend and may bring a personal guest. The event commences at 10.30 am. There is no charge, but only those with formal admission cards will be able to attend. To apply, please log into 'my account' on the RSE website – www.rse.org.uk/my-account and then go to 'event booking' in the left hand menu (the event will not show up until you have logged on). Alternatively, please email the Events Team – events@theRSE.org.uk.



Emeritus Fellows

Thank you to all who contributed to the discussion around the introduction of an Emeritus Fellowship category. This proposal, and the required Laws changes to enact it, were approved at the ASM in October. Fellows over the age of 80 may now opt to become Emeritus/Emerita Fellows by informing the Fellowship Office. If you wish to become Emeritus/Emerita, please contact Morven Chisholm – mchisholm@theRSE.org.uk. This is entirely optional, and if you wish to remain a full Fellow, then no action is required.

Emailing ZIP files to the RSE

A reminder to Fellows that, for reasons of internet security, the RSE does not normally accept emails with ZIP files attached. If a Fellow wishes to send a ZIP file, please contact staff and they will provide the instructions and the necessary code to enable this.

Fellows' Morning Discussion Meetings

Coffee is available in the Fellows' Room on Tuesday mornings at 10.30 am. Once a month, between October 2016 and March 2017, there will be a Discussion Meeting, normally in the Wellcome East Room, introduced by an invited speaker. Discussion meetings will take place as follows:

6 December 2016	Sir Muir Russell KCB FRSE	<i>Policy making then and now</i>
10 January 2017	Professor Gavin Gibson FRSE Professor John McCutcheon CBE FRSE David Forfar FRSE	<i>A Statistician's Delight</i> A celebration of Professor David Finney's Centenary, with coffee, cake and champagne.
7 February 2017	Dame Frances Cairncross CBE FRSE	<i>Does education increase social equality?</i>
7 March 2017	Professor John Connell FRSE	<i>Fellowship matters</i>

Fellows Deceased

It is with much regret that we report the deaths of Professor Robert Penrose **Pearce**; Professor Peter **Sprent**; Dr Ian James **Graham-Bryce** CBE; Professor Peter Arthur Harris **Wyatt**; and Sir Donald Iain **MacKay**. If you have any suggestions of obituary writers for those Fellows for whom we have not managed to commission a writer or source an obituary, please email: obituaries@theRSE.org.uk. A list showing the current state is available at: www.rse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/deaths.pdf

International Exchange Programme – Available Now:

RSE–MoST Joint Projects (Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan)

Closing date: Wednesday 11 January 2017

For further details visit: www.rse.org.uk/awards/international-exchange-programme-rse-most-joint-projects/

RSE–CASS Joint Projects (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Closing date: Friday 24 February 2017

For further details visit: www.rse.org.uk/awards/international-exchange-programme-rse-cass-joint-projects/

Policy Advice Activity

The RSE Education Committee has recently submitted responses to the Scottish Parliament's Education and Skills Committee on the performance of: the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Qualifications Authority; and Education Scotland. These are available from: www.rse.org.uk/policy/advice-papers/education

The RSE also contributed to the Learned Societies' Group response on the Curriculum for Excellence Science Benchmarks: www.rse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/LSG_science_benchmarks_final.pdf In addition, the RSE has responded to the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee inquiry into the economic impact of the UK leaving the EU: www.rse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/AP16_28.pdf Current work underway includes preparing responses to the Scottish Government's draft strategy for STEM education and training and to its review of school governance.

Next RSE @ Programme

In Spring 2017, the RSE will launch its next RSE @ programme, designed to celebrate culture and community across Scotland. RSE @ Inverness will comprise a two-year series of school and public events held in and around the Inverness region. For more information, or if you are interested in contributing a school talk or public lecture to the programme, please contact Kate Kennedy – kkennedy@theRSE.org.uk.

RSE Public Events Programme

The RSE is interested in receiving proposals for our public events programme. All event proposals will be considered by the RSE Meetings Committee. If you would like more information or to receive an Event Proposal Form, please contact Catriona Blair – cblair@theRSE.org.uk

RSE Events

For tickets and information about RSE events, please visit the Society's website, email the Events Team – events@theRSE.org.uk or phone the events ticketline – 0131 240 2780. Unless stated otherwise, events are held at the RSE. Registration is required for all RSE events. Tickets are available as follows:

BP Hutton Prize Lecture – *Direct Carbon Fuel Cells: a Highly Effective Means of Converting Carbon into Electricity*. Dr Cairong Jiang, School of Chemistry, University of St Andrews. Monday 12 December 2016 at 6 pm.

RSE Young Academy of Scotland

As part of the International Day of Prison Education, the YAS Working Group on Arts, Humanities & Society sponsored Glasgow-based "Street Cones" to deliver a morning workshop for some of the men at HMP Barlinnie, culminating in a performance later in the day in front of an audience of peers, staff and representatives of partner organisations. The winners of an arts and writing competition on the role of prison education, with submissions from over one hundred men and women in prisons across Scotland and in Ireland, were announced on the day and YAS member Anne Schwan acted as one of the judges.

Some YAS members are meeting with Mike Russell in December to discuss how YAS may further leverage its members' expertise to inform policy discussions around Brexit.

RSE Rooms Available to Hire

Rooms can be hired for conferences, dinners, meetings, receptions, seminars and celebratory occasions, and Fellows who do so are entitled to a 25% room hire discount. For more information, please visit: www.royalsocedvenue.co.uk/ or contact Martina Hlinkova – mhlinkova@theRSE.org.uk – 0131 240 5034.

Staff News

We are delighted to announce that Marie Montondo, Communications & Executive Assistant, Young Academy, and her husband, Ben Greenall, had a baby boy on Sunday 13 November 2016 – Connor Robert Greenall.

This month, we were pleased to welcome back Catriona Blair and Karen Sim to the Events Team, after their periods on maternity leave.

Feedback

Feedback on how we could improve this bulletin for Fellows is always welcome. To comment, or if you do not wish to receive future editions, please contact: Jenny Liddell – jliddell@theRSE.org.uk – 0131 240 5019.