Recent events at the RSE

The week beginning 9 November 2015 was an extremely busy one at the RSE with three prestigious events running during the week and a plenitude of speakers of the highest calibre.

• The James Clerk Maxwell Conference on Monday 9 November celebrated the 150th anniversary of the publication of Maxwell’s Equations and a plaque to mark this occasion had been unveiled the previous week by Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, the Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland’s Language, (pictured left with Sir Michael Atiyah OM PPRSE). The plaque is in front of the James Clerk Maxwell statue near the RSE.
• A two-day Conference entitled the Science of Beauty took place on Tuesday and Wednesday 10 and 11 November with an inspiring line-up of speakers, included three honorary RSE Fellows.
• On the evening of Thursday 12 November, Professor Lynn Conway was presented with the 2015 IEEE/RSE James Clerk Maxwell Medal before delivering her lecture entitled Our travels through time: envisioning historical waves of technological innovation.

The events on Monday and Thursday were live-streamed and videos of most of the talks can now be viewed online at: www.royalsoced.org.uk/1186_November2015.html. A video recording of some of the talks from the Science of Beauty conference will also be uploaded to the site shortly and summary reports of all these events will also be available online in due course.

Maxwell to Higgs Exhibition and Booklet

In 2012, in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh’s School of Physics and Astronomy, the RSE created an exhibition, From Maxwell to Higgs, which celebrates the scientific links between James Clerk Maxwell and Peter Higgs. To coincide with the Conference (above), a booklet of the exhibition has now been published. The booklet is available from the RSE at a cost of £5 and the exhibition remains available for public view, provided the rooms are not in use by the RSE Conference Centre.

Fellows’ Coffee Mornings

Coffee is available in the Fellows’ Room on Tuesday mornings at 10.30 am. Once a month, between October 2015 and March 2016, there will be a discussion, normally in the East Wellcome Room, introduced by an invited speaker. These are informal and friendly occasions for Fellows and, if you are able to attend, you will be made most welcome. Forthcoming discussions are:

1 December 2015  Judicial vaticination: some thoughts about law in the 21st Century        Sir David Edward FRSE  
2 February 2016        The RSE – is the future younger?         Professor Ineke De Moortel FRSE, University of St Andrews  
1 March 2016           Supplying metals that don’t cost the earth         Professor Peter Tasker FRSE, University of Edinburgh

Fellows Deceased

It is with much regret that we report the deaths of: Professor John William Scott (Ian) Cassels; Professor Klaus Friedrich Roth HonFRSE; Professor Malcolm Harold Chisholm CorrFRSE and John Davie Manson Robertson CBE. Recent requests for help with other obituaries have resulted in several offers and submissions, and for these we are grateful. However, there are still gaps and we would appreciate any suggestions regarding obituary writers for those Fellows for whom we have not managed to commission a writer or source an obituary. Please email: obituaries@royalsoced.org.uk.
A list showing the current state is available at: www.royalsoced.org.uk/933_Obituaries.html
RSE Young Academy
The Young Academy of Scotland recently hosted individuals from the Fulbright Commission and the United States Embassy in Edinburgh at the RSE for an informative meeting. The event had the following aims: to establish links between the Young Academy of Scotland, the United States of America and the Fulbright Commission; to raise awareness of the ongoing global movement of Young Academies; and to identify areas for collaboration between the individuals and organisations in attendance. The meeting was followed by a dynamic networking reception.

RSE Research Awards
The RSE receives funding from various sources that it uses to offer awards which support Scotland’s cultural, economic and social wellbeing. The following awards are currently available and Fellows are encouraged to stimulate applications from suitable individuals:

**Personal Research Fellowships**, supported by the Scottish Government, the Caledonian Research Fund and the BP Research Fellowship Trust; to commence 1 October 2016. Closing date: Monday 15 February 2016. For further detail visit: [www.royalsoced.org.uk/649_RSEPersonalResearchFellowships.html](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/649_RSEPersonalResearchFellowships.html)

RSE Events
For tickets and information about RSE events, please visit the Society's website, email the Events Team at events@royalsoced.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:

**Lecture** – *Sleeping Sickness in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Professor Peter Kennedy CBE FRSE, Burton Chair of Neurology, University of Glasgow. Tuesday 1 December 2015 at 6 pm. This lecture forms part of an RSE Ordinary Meeting.

**Lecture** – *Scientific Generalisations: What’s so Good about Missing out all of the Differences?* Professor Nancy Cartwright, Professor of Philosophy, University of Durham and University of California, San Diego (UCSD), USA. Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 6 pm. This is a joint event with the Royal Institute of Philosophy.

RSE@ Scottish Borders
**Public Talk** – *What is (and was) Scots? Answers and Questions from an Historical Perspective*. Professor Jeremy Smith FRSE, Professor of English Philosophy, University of Glasgow. Monday 7 December 2015 at 7 pm at Eyemouth High School.

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](http://www.royalsocedvenue.co.uk) or contact Martina Hlinkova – mhlinkova@royalsoced.org.uk – 0131 240 5034.

Staff News
A warm welcome to Laura Earley who started at the RSE on 2 November as Records Management Officer, and to Erin Whyte, who started on 16 November as Events Officer (maternity cover).

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@royalsoced.org.uk – 0131 240 5019.