RSE AND SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE CONTINUE TO HELP NEW BUSINESS CREATION IN SCOTLAND

More ideas are set to become successful businesses in Scotland following the signing of a new contract between the RSE and Scottish Enterprise to continue the highly successful Enterprise Fellowships scheme. The scheme provides academics committed to creating a spin-out company, with a year’s salary, business training, development funding and access to networks of mentors, experts and advisors.

The announcement of the new five-year scheme was made at a prestigious ceremony in Glasgow on March 19. It is hoped that 60 new Enterprise Fellows will be supported during this next phase of Enterprise Fellowships, benefiting many others in the creation of quality jobs and products that enhance well-being and wealth-creation in Scotland and beyond.
President Elect

DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMAT TO BE NEXT RSE PRESIDENT

Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, Governor of Hong Kong from 1987 to 1992, is to be the next RSE President.

Lord Wilson, KT, GCMG, KStJ, FRSE will take over as RSE President when Sir Michael Atiyah demits office this October. The highly prestigious post of RSE President has been held by other such distinguished figures as Lord Kelvin and Sir Walter Scott. The post is unpaid; the term lasts for three years and always provides a six-month period of overlap for the incoming and outgoing Presidents. Currently Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge and Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen, Lord Wilson has achieved international distinction in a broad range of fields and is one of the United Kingdom’s most eminent diplomats.

Sir Michael, who remains in office until October 2008 commented:

I am delighted that Lord Wilson is to be the next President of The Royal Society of Edinburgh. Lord Wilson has a wealth of experience upon which to draw. As the Society’s International Convener, Lord Wilson contributed greatly to the success and development of our work in enhancing Scotland’s global collaboration. His leadership will help drive forward the public benefit activities of the Society, which I know he will take from strength to strength.

Lord Wilson said:

It is a great honour, and a great pleasure, to be elected to take over as President later this year from Sir Michael Atiyah. Over recent years The Royal Society of Edinburgh has established itself as the pre-eminent centre for serious discussion of key issues affecting Scotland and a wider world. I look forward to being able to help build on these foundations to enhance even further the role of the RSE both domestically and internationally.

Lord Wilson holds honorary doctorates from the Universities of Aberdeen, Sydney, Hong Kong, Abertay Dundee and the Chinese University of Hong Kong and is an Honorary Fellow of Keble College, Oxford.

He was educated at Glenalmond College and did his National Service in The Black Watch. After Oxford he joined the Foreign Service, studied Chinese at the University of Hong Kong and served in Peking (1963–1965) and on the China Desk in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

He resigned from the Foreign Service in 1968 and became Editor of the China Quarterly, at the School of Oriental and African Studies (1968–74), during which time he completed a PhD relating to a period of modern Chinese history.

After re-joining the Foreign Service he served first in the Cabinet Office and then as Political Adviser to the Governor of Hong Kong (1977–81).

He was later Assistant Under-Secretary of State at the FCO for Asia – Pacific and then, from 1987 to 1992, Governor of Hong Kong.

On retirement from Public Service he became Chairman of Scottish Hydro-Electric (later Scottish and Southern Energy), from 1993 to 2000. For eight years he was a member of the Board of the British Council and Chairman of the Scottish Committee. From 1992 to 2002 he was Chairman of the Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland and he has been a Trustee of the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland since 2000.

He has been a Fellow of the RSE since 2000, and served on the Council in 2000–2001 and 2002–2004. He was Convenor of the International Committee from 2001 to 2002.

Lord Wilson was a member of the British Mount Kongur Expedition (in Northwest China) in 1981 and his hobbies include hill walking, theatre and reading. He retires from the Mastership of Peterhouse at the end of June this year.
Bioinformatics - it’s not just numbers

Life sciences research today has been transformed by the explosive growth in the volume of data emerging from its laboratories. For example, one of the biggest scientific challenges in recent years has been the complete sequencing of the human genome. However, the molecular biology of any organism is very complex, and so to develop a true understanding of how living organisms function, further research must be carried out at levels beyond that of genome sequencing. The explosion of genomic data has therefore been supplemented by a similar increase in data in the fields of proteomics, transcriptomics and metabolomics. The huge increase in data being generated in the post-genomic era, and the need to interpret the data, has resulted in the integration of specialised computing into the research process. Bioinformatics is an interdisciplinary research area that brings together biological and computational sciences. It enables researchers in the life sciences disciplines to evaluate, combine, and visualise the data they generate by utilising computer programs and other tools running either on personal computers, or making use of supercomputers and networked computer grid systems.

Understanding data

Biological databases contain data from a broad spectrum of molecular biology areas, such as information and annotation of DNA and protein sequences, DNA and protein structures and DNA and protein expression profiles. The data itself is meaningless before analysis and so bioinformaticians utilise computer tools to extract worthwhile biological information. For example, when characterising a new gene or protein, a usual first step is to look for compositional patterns of known function, origin, or relationships in the sequence. The molecule can then be further characterised by examining its physicochemical properties, overall compositional bias, positioning in a family cluster, predicted structure and sub-cellular localisation. The reverse of this process can also be implemented: a relevant new gene can be identified in a database or genome by searching for the desired properties. Thus previously unknown genes can be found by their properties or the properties of their protein product, a process crucial to describing biochemical pathways, finding evolutionary homologs, or discovering antigens.

Systems biology and modelling

Systems biology integrates the biological data generated by researchers in order to generate understanding of the complex and highly structured interactions of molecules, cells and organs in living systems. The objective is to model all of the molecular interactions in an organism. Data for modelling is generated using high throughput techniques, in order to maximise inputs and allow the model to be as complete as possible. Computational modelling uses known data and attempts to fill in the unknowns in order to propose hypotheses of interactions within biological systems, and these models are then used to inform ‘wet lab’ research. This cycle of theory, data, modelling and experimental validation helps researchers to build in-depth knowledge of how these complex interactions generate life. Predictive mathematical models are a key element in systems biology, and so the expertise of computer scientists and mathematicians are as essential as that of biologists in this truly cross-discipline field of science.

Bioinformatics in Scotland

Scotland has an internationally unique, integrated bioinformatics research community that is recognised for its excellence in academia and industry world-wide. The strong sense of Scottish community enables collaboration and interactions that drive forward life science research faster than ever before.

Scotland has some of the world’s leading researchers in systems biology. Scottish strengths in bioinformatics include structure and function of biomolecules, genetics of complex diseases, pathway biology, functional genomics and high-throughput technologies.

This expertise and technology is being used to find answers and solutions in the fields of cancer, cardio-vascular, development, and infectious diseases research. Scotland performs an important role in promoting bioinformatics as a key enabling technology in medical and life science research and development.

About the Scottish Bioinformatics Forum

The Scottish Bioinformatics Forum (SBF) enhances knowledge and understanding of bioinformatics technology in both the informatics and life sciences communities. It provides training, support and sponsorship, helps scientists access the bioinformatics resources that they need and finds the right partners for collaborative projects.

Further details of the Forum’s activities can be found on its web-site - www.sbforum.org or contact Chris or Sandra - contact@sbforum.org - 0131 240 2783
Sixty-five outstanding individuals have been elected to Fellowship of the Society. Chosen in recognition of outstanding contributions to their fields and achievement in public service, a broad spectrum of expertise is represented in the new list of Fellows.

RSE President, Sir Michael Atiyah commented:

I am delighted to be able to welcome such an outstanding array of new Fellows to the Society. Conferring the accolade of Fellowship on individuals recognised as amongst the best minds in Scotland and around the world, is the beginning, not the end, of the Society’s purpose. The collective expertise and experience of the Fellowship enables the RSE to uphold its Royal Charter of 1783 for the “advancement of learning and useful knowledge” and deliver meaningful, public-benefit activities in today’s Scotland.

Fellows were selected by peer-election and postal ballot of the entire Fellowship. The Society offers its sincere thanks to all Fellows who devoted their time and expertise to the Sectional Committees which considered all nominees.

The full list of new Fellows follows:

**HONORARY FELLOWS**

EL HASSAN, HRH Prince Bin Talal.

HOCHSTRASSER, Robin Main. Donner Professor of Physical Sciences, University of Pennsylvania.

RAVEN, Peter. Director, Missouri Botanical Garden.

RAVEN, Peter. Director, Missouri Botanical Garden.

STODDART, James Fraser, KB, DSc, FRSC, FGANS, FAAAS, FRNAAS, Hon DSc. Board of Trustees Professor of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Illinois.

**CORRESPONDING FELLOWS**

HEMLEY, Russell Julian. Director, Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

HUBER, Johannes B. Professor for Electrical Communications and Head of the Institute for Information Trans-mission, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany.

McDUFF, Dusa Margaret. FRS. Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

SCOTT, John Donald, FRSE. Director of Academic Development and Senior Scientist, Vollum Institute, Portland, Oregon. Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

WALSH, Frank Sinclair. Executive Vice-President and Head, Discovery Research Worldwide, Wyeth Research, USA. Visiting Professor, Kings College, London and Adjunct Professor, Dublin.

WILSON, Ian Andrew. Professor, Department of Molecular Biology, The Scripps Research Institute, California, and Adjunct Professor, Department of Pathology, University of California at San Diego.
FELLOWS

ALBON, Stephen Derek. Programme Co-ordinator, Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen. Hon Professor (Aberdeen).

BARLOW, David Hearshaw. Executive Dean of Medicine and Professor of Reproductive Medicine, University of Glasgow.

BAXTER, John. Group Engineering Director, BP.

BECHHOFER, Frank. University Fellow and Professor Emeritus of Social Research, University of Edinburgh.

BENTON, Michael James. Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology, and Head of Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol.

BONE, James Drummond. Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool.

BONNELL, Ian Alexander Douglas. Professor of Astronomy, University of St. Andrews.

BRADLEY, Mark. Professor of High-Throughput Chemical Biology, University of Edinburgh.

BRENNER, John David. Professor of Sociology and Head of Department, University of Aberdeen.

BROWN, Janet Marjorie. Chief Executive Officer, Scottish Qualification Authority.


CORMACK, Robert John. Principal, UHl Millennium Institute, Inverness.

CROOK, Jonathan Nicholas. Professor of Business Economics and Director, Credit Research Centre, University of Edinburgh.

DUFF, Gordon William. KB. Florey Professor of Molecular Medicine, University of Sheffield. Hon Fellow (St Peter's College Oxon).

DUNLOP, Malcolm Graham. Professor of Coloproctology, University of Edinburgh; Head, Colon Cancer Genetics Group, Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre; Honorary Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

ELLIOIT, Alison Janet. OBE. Associate Director, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh.

GOODWIN, Frederick Anderson. KT. Group Chief Executive. The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc.

GRAHAM, Gerard John. Professor of Molecular and Structural Immunology, University of Glasgow.

HARRIS, Kenneth David Maclean. Distinguished Research Professor, University of Cardiff.

HAYDON, Daniel Thomas. Professor of Population Biology, University of Glasgow.

HAYES, John Duncan. Professor of Molecular Carcinogenesis, University of Dundee, Honorary Professor (Zhengzhou University, China).

HEWITT, Gordon. CBE. Distinguished Visiting Professor of International Business & Corporate Strategy, University of Michigan, Distinguished Professor of Corporate Strategy, Duke University.

HUNT, Kenneth James. Wylie Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering, University of Glasgow. Hon Clinical Research Professor, Southern General Hospital, Glasgow.

HURADO, Larry W. Professor of New Testament Language, Literature and Theology, University of Edinburgh.

JACKSON, Ian James. Senior Scientist, MRC Human Genetics Unit, Edinburgh, Hon Professor (Edinburgh).

KAUFMAN, Matthew Howard. Professor of Anatomy, University of Edinburgh.

LALAND, Kevin Neville. Professor of Biology, University of St. Andrews.

LEASK, Nigel James. Regius Professor of English Language and Literature, University of Glasgow.

LEIGHTON, John. Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland.

MACDONALD, David Whyte. Director of Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, and Professor of Wildlife Conservation, University of Oxford.

MACRAE, Colin Neil. Professor, School of Psychology, University of Aberdeen.

MAO, Xuerong. Professor, Department of Statistics and Modelling Science, at University of Strathclyde.

McCULL, James Allan. OBE. Chairman & Chief Executive Clyde Blowers Ltd. Hon Professor (Stirling), Visiting Professor (Strathclyde).

McEWAN, Ian Kenneth. Technical Director, Brinker Technology Ltd., Reader, University of Aberdeen.

McINNES, Iain Blair. Professor of Experimental Medicine, University of Glasgow. Visiting Professor (San Diego), Hon Professor (Strathclyde).

McMURRAY, John Joseph Valentine. Professor of Medical Cardiology, University of Glasgow and Honorary Consultant Cardiologist, Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

MILLAR, Robert Peter. Director of the MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit, University of Edinburgh.

MORRIS, Russell Edward. Professor of Structural and Materials Chemistry, University of St Andrews.

NEWLANDS, Revd George McLeod. Professor of Divinity, University of Glasgow.

PEMBERTON, Josephine Mary. Professor of Molecular Ecology, University of Edinburgh.

PHILO, Christopher Paul. Professor of Geography, Department of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow.

RENWICK, John Peter. Honorary Fellow, School of Literatures, Languages & Cultures, University of Edinburgh.

ROBERTSON, James Francis. Full time writer. General Editor of Itchy Cox. Hon Research Fellow, Department of Scottish Literature, University of Glasgow.

ROWAN, Sheila. Professor of Experimental Physics, Institute for Gravitational Research (IGR), University of Glasgow.

SANG, Helen. Principal Investigator, Roslin Institute, Midlothian.

SCOTT, Hamish Marshall. Wardlaw Professor of International History, University of St Andrews.


SENN, Stephen John. Professor of Mathematics, University of Glasgow.

STEWART, Iain William. Professor of Statistics, University of Glasgow.

TORERO CULLEN, Jose Luis. BRE Trust/RAEng Professor of Fire Safety Engineering, University of Edinburgh.

WALLACE, Alexander Robin Swann. Professor and Head of the Institute for Energy Systems, School of Engineering and Electronics, University of Edinburgh.

WHITE, Malcolm Frederick. Director of Research for the School of Biology, University of St Andrews.

WOODS, Philip J. Head, Institute of Physics, University of Edinburgh.
International

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

One of the main purposes of the RSE International Programme is to award short term travel grants to enable Scottish researchers to establish links with colleagues in other countries with a view to a long lasting collaboration, through joint publications and joint applications for longer term funds. These International Exchange Awards are available to all researchers of at least postdoctoral level, not only to Fellows of the RSE. These awards are perhaps particularly appropriate for younger members of research groups to facilitate establishing international connections.

The following are excerpts from three reports of visits supported by the International Exchange Programme.

Dr Neil Stuart, Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh

Visited: Keizo Nonomura, Rural Development Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Tokyo, Japan

Dr Neil Stuart from the Edinburgh Earth Observatory in the School of Geosciences at Edinburgh University made a successful visit to the Rural Development Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) in Tokyo, Japan. Through a seminar and a series of meetings with senior staff, he explained the work he has been undertaking in Edinburgh, assisted by one of their senior staff who was on secondment to him during 2006.

During the visit, Dr Stuart refined a technique for producing computer mapping of less favourable areas for agriculture, which he originally created for use in Scotland, and discussed how similar methods could be developed for use in Japan. He also made related visits and gave presentations to the National Agriculture and Food Research Organisation and the University of Tsukaba.

The hosts considered his visit to be timely and policy relevant, since the problem of how to support agriculture in remoter and less productive areas is a common challenge facing both Japan and Scotland at the present time.

International Exchange Programme – Eligibility and Deadlines

The International Exchange Programme is open to Scottish-based researchers of at least postdoctoral status for visits of up to 4 weeks – either to Scotland or to the collaborator’s overseas institution.

Through the Bilateral Exchange Programme, costs are shared by the RSE and its bilateral partners (sister academies with which we have established agreements). Applications are also invited for the Open Exchange Programme, which is for exchanges between Scotland and countries not covered by the RSE’s bilateral agreements. Both Exchange Programmes are open to Fellows and non-Fellows of the Society.

There are four deadlines per year, and the next deadline for applications is 30 April. Applications for the Bilateral Programme are invited for all four deadlines, however please check the RSE website for confirmation of the deadlines for the Open Programme (www.royalsoced.org.uk/international).
Scottish-based host: Dr James Brockmole, University of Edinburgh

Visitor: Dr Walter Boot, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

What determines the allocation of visual attention in a scene? To a large extent, previous research has focused on where people will direct their attention in a scene. However, a complete understanding of visual attention must take into account both the spatial and temporal dynamics of attention shifts. Several studies were conducted at the University of Edinburgh by Dr Boot and Dr Brockmole to answer the question of whether unique items not only have the ability to capture attention, but to hold attention as well. It was found that unique features that typically capture attention have very little power to hold attention in a bottom-up, stimulus-driven manner. However, unique items that violate the observers’ expectations do seem to hold attention, even when these items are completely irrelevant to the primary task.

During the visit, new lines of research were initiated, data collected, and these lines are now continuing both at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Illinois. The results of the research conducted so far have important implications for both models of visual attention and visual search, and will hopefully encourage a greater focus on factors that control the temporal dynamics of attention shifts. Dr Boot and Dr Brockmole will soon be writing the first manuscript for publication based on the research conducted during the visit, and will also be investigating future lines of funding to expand this research. Dr Boot and Dr Brockmole are beginning the process of writing a larger-scale grant to further investigate these novel findings.

Scottish-based host: Dr Stuart Gibb, Environmental Research Institute, UHI Millennium Institute

Visitor: Professor Chon-Lin Lee, Department of Marine Environment & Engineering, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan

During Professor Lee’s visit to Scotland, visits took place to the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Oban, UHI Executive Office, Inverness and the Environmental Research Institute, Thurso. There was a familiarisation tour of SAMS with Dr Anuschka Miller and a welcome from the Director, Professor Graham Shimmield FRSE. In Inverness a meeting was held with Professor Robert Cormack FRSE, Principal, UHI Millennium Institute, and in Thurso meetings were held with a number of staff and the visitor was given a tour of the research facility. Overall the visit was considered highly successful by both sides and it was a platform from which further collaboration can be developed.

Following the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed between the ERI and the Department of Marine Environment & Engineering. The MoU records the intention to promote academic, educational and technical exchange between the institutions through staff and student exchanges, co-operative research and exchange of academic materials.
International

CHINA

The RSE and The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NNSFC) have signed an Agreement to promote collaborative activities in areas of mutual interest between researchers in Scotland and China. The subject of Management Science and Engineering and Public Policy has been identified as a priority area for future collaboration. In this context the NNSFC brought a delegation to Scotland on 15 March 2008, comprising eight senior academics and three NNSFC staff members to explore opportunities for research cooperation. To facilitate this, the RSE held a two day Workshop on 17–18 March to give opportunities to colleagues from Scotland to interact with the Chinese visitors. The Workshop was an opportunity to identify areas of mutual interest and, perhaps, partners in China, with the expectation of progressing collaborative research. The RSE will be looking towards supporting some reciprocal visits to China, as an outcome from the Workshop.

INDIA

The RSE is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with The Indian National Science Academy (INSA). The agreement was signed by the INSA President Dr R. A. Mashelkar and the RSE President, Sir Michael Atiyah on Monday 10 December 2007 at the Society’s Rooms. The signing of the agreement was followed by a dinner with members of the RSE International Committee and invited guests.

The agreement sets out the commitment to facilitate, encourage and support research collaboration in all areas between research groups in Scotland and India. Under this agreement, the two academies also agree to fund academic exchanges between the two countries through the international Exchange Bilateral Programme.

PAKISTAN

The RSE hosted a reception in the Society’s Rooms on 17 January 2008 to tie in with a conference organised by the University of St Andrews. The conference brought together Scottish academics and Vice-Chancellors of five Pakistan universities to discuss academic capacity building. The evening reception at the RSE was an opportunity for Scottish-based academics to meet with their Pakistan-based counterparts and discuss possible areas for collaboration.

The initiative is a joint venture between St Andrews University and its partner universities in Pakistan to develop a new postgraduate PhD partnership designed to build academic capacity in Pakistan and strengthen Scottish links with that country. If successful, St Andrews hopes the model will allow other Scottish universities to forge similar partnerships with HE institutions across Pakistan. It is envisaged that the partnership will not only create the first joint St Andrews–Pakistan PhDs, but fruitful academic exchanges, joint research projects and post-doctoral appointments.

Tariq Durrani, RSE Vice-President (left), Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, and Professor Wei Zhang, Deputy Director, Department of Management Sciences of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (and leader of the delegation).

Sir Michael Atiyah presenting Dr Mashelkar with memorial quaich

Pakistan delegation with Dr Brian Lang (4th from left), Principal of the University of St Andrews and Professor Sir David Edward, RSE International Convener (pictured extreme right).
Eight new members were appointed to the Scottish Advisory Committee (SSAC) in February 2008. The SSAC was established in 2002 under the previous administration’s Science Strategy and was initially managed by The Royal Society of Edinburgh. Following the appointment of Professor Anne Glover as the Government’s Chief Scientific Adviser, responsibility for the SSAC was transferred to the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser on 1 January 2007.

The remit of the SSAC is to provide independent advice and recommendations on science strategy, policy and priorities. As experts close to the cutting edge of developments, they provide advice on the economic and wider opportunities arising from science and technology, and also on the impact of new scientific thought.

The SSAC comprises 19 members, 14 of whom are Fellows of The Royal Society of Edinburgh. Seven members stepped down at the end of 2007, having served on SSAC for several years. In addition to Professor Anne Glover (SSAC Co-Chair), 10 existing members are remaining on the Committee for a further two years. Appointments to the SSAC, which do not receive any remuneration, are made for a three year period renewable for a further two. The new appointments were made following a public advertisement and selection was by a panel chaired by Professor Anne Glover, which also included representatives of The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Confederation of British Industry Scotland. All appointments are made on merit and in order to achieve a balance across the scientific community.

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, welcomed the appointments. She said “I am delighted that such a high calibre group of experts have agreed to join the Scottish Science Advisory Committee. Scotland has an enviable international reputation for scientific innovation, with a high number of dedicated and experienced people working across many different disciplines. The SSAC brings together this expertise, giving the Scottish Government access to valuable independent advice on many scientific matters.”

Professor Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Scottish Government and Co-Chair of the SSAC, said: “The newly appointed members of the SSAC bring many years of experience from business and academia. They cover a broad range of expertise including life sciences, computing, the chemicals industry, and energy which will strengthen and complement the expertise of the existing Committee.”

New appointments to the SSAC are:

- **Professor Alan Bundy** FRSE
  Professor of Automated Reasoning in the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

- **Professor Michael Ferguson** CBE FRSE
  Dean of Research for the College of Life Sciences, University of Dundee

- **Dr Karen Jervis**
  Chief Executive Officer of NextGen Bio (UK) Ltd

- **Professor Jim McDonald** FRSE
  Director of the Institute for Energy and Environment
  Deputy Principal of Strathclyde University

- **Professor Andy Porter** FRSE
  Professor of Biotechnology and Deputy Director of the Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Aberdeen

- **Iain Ritchie** CBE FRSE
  Non-Executive Chairman of Iomart plc, Scapa, CAS, Caspian Learning and the Interactive Design Institute

- **Professor Roland Wolf** FRSE
  Director of the Biomedical Research Centre, University of Dundee

- **Professor Bob Tooze**, Managing Director of Sasol Technology UK Ltd

They join the continuing members:

- **Professor Anne Glover** FRSE
  Chief Scientific Adviser to the Scottish Government (SSAC Co-Chair)

- **Dr Stuart Monro** OBE
  Scientific Director, Our Dynamic Earth (SSAC Independent Co-Chair)

- **Professor Steve Beaumont** OBE FRSE
  Vice-Principal, University of Glasgow

- **Professor Sir Kenneth Calman** KCB FRSE
  Chancellor, University of Glasgow

- **Professor Julie Fitzpatrick** FRSE
  Chief Executive, Moredun Research Institute

- **Professor Peter Morgan** FRSE
  Director, Rowett Research Institute

- **Professor Stuart Reid** FRSE
  Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Glasgow

- **Dr Barbara Spruce**
  Senior Lecturer, University of Dundee

- **Professor Joyce Tait** CBE FRSE
  Scientific Adviser, Innogen, University of Edinburgh

- **Professor Chris van der Kuyl** FRSE
  Chief Executive, ScotlandOnline EurIng

- **Eur Ing Graham Wren**
  Managing Director, GSE Systems Limited.
ROBERT CORMACK BEQUEST LECTURE

100 Years of Radio Astronomy: Past, Present and Future
Professor Michael Garrett, General Director, ASTRON

Professor Garrett will review the birth of radio astronomy, from the earliest discoveries of cosmic radio emission just before and after the Second World War, through to the construction of the huge paraboloid dishes that became synonymous with the dawn of the modern space age (eg Jodrell Bank). He will describe the unique role radio astronomy has played in advancing our understanding of the nature and evolution of the Universe as a whole, as well as our own place within it. In particular, he will look forward to the transformational science that will be conducted by a new generation of radio telescopes over the next 15 years, including new and increasingly sensitive searches for extra-terrestrial signals from intelligent life elsewhere in the Galaxy.

CALEDONIAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION PRIZE LECTURE

Professor Steven Shoelson, Joslin Diabetes Centre, Boston

Throughout human history, food availability has fluctuated, and survival during periods of famine has been possible due to nutrients stored in adipose tissue. More recently there has been a major change in this pattern, with sustained increases in food availability and concurrent decreases in physical activity. The consequent epidemic in obesity has been accompanied by dramatic upswings in the prevalence of serious illnesses, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and even cancer. Recent biomedical research advances provide potential explanations as to why weight gain is so unhealthy. Surprising new findings suggest the body’s own immunological defense mechanisms are responsible, thus providing potential pharmacological interventions to supplement the more obvious avenues of diet and exercise.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TICKETS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL RSE EVENTS. To book tickets online, visit www.royalsoced.org.uk or phone events ticket line - 0131 240 2780. Contact events@royalsoced.org.uk for further information. Unless stated otherwise, events are held at the RSE.

APRIL 2008

Monday 28 April 2008 at 5.30 pm

ROBERT CORMACK BEQUEST LECTURE

100 Years of Radio Astronomy: Past, Present and Future
Professor Michael Garrett, General Director, ASTRON

Professor Garrett will review the birth of radio astronomy, from the earliest discoveries of cosmic radio emission just before and after the Second World War, through to the construction of the huge paraboloid dishes that became synonymous with the dawn of the modern space age (eg Jodrell Bank). He will describe the unique role radio astronomy has played in advancing our understanding of the nature and evolution of the Universe as a whole, as well as our own place within it. In particular, he will look forward to the transformational science that will be conducted by a new generation of radio telescopes over the next 15 years, including new and increasingly sensitive searches for extra-terrestrial signals from intelligent life elsewhere in the Galaxy.

MAY 2008

Thursday 8 May 2008 at 5.30 pm

LECTURE

The European Union: Does it have a future?
Sir John D K Grant, KCMG
Former UK Permanent Representative (Ambassador) to the EU

The EU was conceived in a different era: the key challenges of the 21st century - globalisation, climate change, terrorism and WMD, poverty in Africa - were far from the minds of its Founding Fathers. Its institutions are widely seen as complex and arcane. Public opinion is indifferent or hostile. And when the EU tries to re-invent itself, the outcome seems to be political controversy, not a coherent and purposive continent. So is the EU past its best, and will it be relevant in the world of tomorrow? Sir John is the son of the late Sheriff D M Grant, and was educated in Edinburgh Academy and Cambridge University. His career in the Diplomatic Service included postings in Sweden and Moscow, as well as more than ten years in Brussels, where he was UK Permanent Representative (Ambassador) to the EU from 2003 to 2007. He left the Diplomatic Service in 2007 and moved to the private sector.

Monday 12 May 2008 at 5.30 pm

LECTURE

Exploring the Mysteries of the Universe with the Large Hadron Collider
Professor Fabiola Gianotti, Research Physicist, Deputy Spokesperson of the Atlas Experiment

The most powerful accelerator ever built, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), will start operation at CERN near Geneva, Switzerland, in Summer 2008. It will smash proton beams of unprecedented intensity and energy, and the products of the collisions will be recorded by huge, high-technology detectors. The LHC should be able to solve several mysteries, such as what is the origin of dark matter? Why do elementary particles have different masses, so that the heaviest quark weighs as much as a Gold atom and the photon weighs ... nothing? Is this due to the famous ‘Higgs boson’, the particle postulated in 1964 by Professor Peter Higgs FRs, FRSE from the University of Edinburgh? This lecture will present the goals and challenges of one of the biggest and most difficult projects in science ever. Supported by University of Glasgow and Durham University

Monday 26 May 2008 at 5.30 pm at the RSE

CALEDONIAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION PRIZE LECTURE

Professor Steven Shoelson, Joslin Diabetes Centre, Boston

Throughout human history, food availability has fluctuated, and survival during periods of famine has been possible due to nutrients stored in adipose tissue. More recently there has been a major change in this pattern, with sustained increases in food availability and concurrent decreases in physical activity. The consequent epidemic in obesity has been accompanied by dramatic upswings in the prevalence of serious illnesses, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and even cancer. Recent biomedical research advances provide potential explanations as to why weight gain is so unhealthy. Surprising new findings suggest the body’s own immunological defense mechanisms are responsible, thus providing potential pharmacological interventions to supplement the more obvious avenues of diet and exercise.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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Monday 9 June 2008 at 5.30 pm
LECTURE
Electropalatography in the analysis of tongue dynamics during normal and disordered speech
Professor William J Hardcastle FBA, FRSE, Director, Speech Science Research Centre, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
It is estimated that at least 3% of the population have a moderate speech impairment that impacts significantly on their quality of life. Often precise diagnosis of the underlying problem is particularly difficult when conventional procedures are used. However, supplementing traditional speech and language therapy procedures with techniques such as Electropalatography (EPG), which records contacts between the tongue and palate during speech, offers real benefits in terms of more precise range of speech disorders including those associated with cleft palate, Downs Syndrome, hearing impairment and functional articulation problems.

Wednesday 23 June 2008 at 5.30 pm
LECTURE
Maps, Mapping, Map History
Professor Charles W J Withers FBA FRSE, Professor of Historical Geography, University of Edinburgh
Maps are commonplace yet complex objects. Once regarded as truth-full and accurate objects - mirrors to the world - maps are now seen as partial representations, mapping an expression not just of technical accomplishment but of political power and map makers’ authority. Once mainly paper, what is the future for maps and mapping in the digital age? In a lecture given to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Map Library of the National Library of Scotland, the past, present and future nature of the map as a geographical object and of mapping as a social and technical process will be illustrated and explored.

In association with the Scottish Royal Geographical Society and with support from the National Library of Scotland (Maps Division)

Monday 30 June 2008 at 5.30 pm
LECTURE
Structures and Granular Solids
Professor J. Michael Rotter, FREng, FRSE, FIStructE, FASCE, FIEAust, Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Edinburgh
The Royal Society of Edinburgh is organising a major two-day conference to celebrate the 60th birthday of Professor J. Michael Rotter. At the conference, Michael’s colleagues, collaborators, friends and former students will get together to pay tribute to Michael for his lifetime achievement in scientific research, particularly in the fields of structures, shells, silos and granular solids.

Monday 30 June – Wednesday 2 July 2008
CONFERENCE
Structures and Granular Solids. From Scientific Principles to Engineering Applications
In Celebration of the 60th birthday of Professor J. Michael Rotter
This event will bring together a significant group of eminent researchers from around the world for an important scientific meeting in the two related and interacting fields of structures and granular solids, with a unique theme of bridging the gap between the development of new scientific understanding and its application to solve practical engineering problems. This has been a central theme of Professor Rotter’s work, and it is therefore a fitting theme for an event organised to celebrate Professor Rotter’s contributions to science and engineering.
There will be a Poster Competition as part of the conference. All researchers working in the related fields are encouraged to attend and to display posters of their work. Young researchers are particularly welcome. Lunch and Refreshments provided.
Conference fee - Full rate £250. Concession Rate (inc FRSE) £195. Student Rate £95.

The full list of RSE events appears on the RSE website, www.royalsoced.org.uk/events and in the RSE diary, available from the Events Team - events@royalsoced.org.uk
Young People

RSE@Arbroath

The new Young People’s year-long programme of educational activities in Arbroath announced in the Winter 2007 edition of ReSourcE was launched on 25 February. Working collaboratively, key organisations in and around the town are teaming up with the RSE to offer new events to school students and members of the public, to celebrate and explore the achievements and cultural diversity of Arbroath. The activities will be delivered by drawing upon a combination of local and outside expertise.

RSE Vice-President (Arts and Humanities), Professor Jan McDonald (pictured right) said:

I would like to thank everyone in Arbroath for making us so welcome and for the opportunity to join forces in offering this new programme of events. We have encountered such enthusiasm from local individuals and organisations for this exploration of Arbroath’s past, present and future. The wide-ranging programme of investigation and celebration has been driven with great passion within this community and it is a great pleasure for us to work in such an atmosphere of commitment. We look forward to the year ahead.

The opportunity for the RSE to join forces with community organisations in Arbroath arose from the enthusiastic reception that visiting RSE Speaker, Professor Sue Black OBE, FRSE received when she gave talks in Arbroath Academy on Identity and Forensic Anthropology in 2004.

Working collaboratively with community partners in Arbroath, the RSE’s aims for the programme are that it helps to:

* offer a greater understanding of the Burgh’s past and present life as a community, existing within the contexts of Angus, Scotland and internationally;
* build upon a sense of identity and civic pride, particularly among young people, by celebrating a notion of belonging to an area rich in cultural and human resources;
* provide a sound and informed basis from which the community is empowered to address current issues related to its future development and continuing prosperity.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:

Identity and the People of Arbroath

January – March

**Events for schools**

RSE@Schools Talk and Workshop - Identity: Forensic Art
18 January 2008
Miss Caroline Needham, University of Dundee

RSE@Schools Talk - Identity: Facial Reconstruction
Tuesday 26 February 2008
Dr Caroline Wilkinson, University of Dundee

Spring Roadshow - What’s in a name?
26, 27 and 28 February 2008
A study of local family names and the history of some well known Arbroath families.
Contributions from: Dr. Simon Taylor and Darcey Gillie, University of Glasgow, Fiona Schular, Arbroath Library archivist, Dr Alison Muir and Jim Tollerton, Historic Scotland, Councillor Robert Spink

**Events for public**

The Commandos from Arbroath
Tuesday 26 February 2008
Famous campaigns – past and current missions and an explanation about what life is like living as a Commando in the Arbroath community.
Captain Air and L.Cpl. J. Hare, 45 Commando

Red Lichties and their impact on the rest of the world
Tuesday 25 March 2008
A study of historic, scientific and technological discoveries made by local people.
Lord Fraser of Carmyllie QC
IDENTITY AND THE PEOPLE OF ARBROATH

Events for schools - Forensic Art

The first event in the Arbroath programme took place prior to the official opening, on 18 January, when S6 pupils from Arbroath High School (pictured right) attended a lecture on Facial Reconstruction followed by a workshop. Facial reconstruction is the process of building a face from the skull. It is employed to aid forensic identification as well as archeological investigation. Reconstructions can be created in either two or three dimensions; traditionally as illustrations or clay sculpture, but also digitally utilising the latest ‘virtual sculpture’ technology. The lecture explained the history, method and applications of facial reconstruction.

The workshop allowed students a hands-on approach to the subject. Groups of up to five students worked together on reconstructing the face of a living individual who had volunteered to have his skull CT scanned. Each group received a copy of the same skull. At the end of the session students compared their reconstruction with a photograph of the man. The workshop aimed to improve the students’ understanding of anatomy and sculpture and to facilitate team work.

Events for public - Commandos in Arbroath

Members of 45 Commando offered exciting insights into their campaigns in the first public event of the series on 26 February. 45 Commando’s Captain Air and L. Cpl. J Hare discussed the unit’s past and present activities and reflected upon the life of the Marines and their families in Arbroath.

From the frozen wastes of Norway to the deserts of Afghanistan, this two-part lecture looked at the history and present-day reality of one of the most famous units in Britain’s armed forces. Capt Air and LCpl Hare provided a vivid account of the role that the Arbroath-based 45 Commando has played in many parts of the world. In some cases they have played a crucial part in fighting wars, at other times they have been peace-keepers, or brought relief in the wake of natural disasters.

The brainchild of Winston Churchill, 45 Commando began life in 1943 as a unit designed for raiding the Nazi-occupied ports of Continental Europe. Capt Air described many of the conflicts with which they had been involved, from World War II through to the Troubles in Northern Ireland and more recently in Iraq.

Throughout the second half of the 20th century there were deployments in many of the world’s trouble spots. These included conflicts that shaped the political map of the world such as Korea and Suez. Since 1972, each tour of duty has meant a return to home base in Arbroath, a town from where the captain said they drew tremendous strength and support.

In the years since the 11 September attack on the World Trade Center, 45 Commando have been closely involved with the UK’s anti-terrorism operations. Members of the unit were involved in the Second Gulf War and contributed to the swift defeat of Saddam Hussein’s forces. They were also active in Kosovo, at that time a province of Serbia, where they helped keep peace between rival Albanian and Serbian factions. They emphasised that modern conflict situations are highly complex and are as much about supporting local populations and rebuilding infrastructure as they are about fighting. “We have to be prepared for anything, any kind of incident at any time. The situation you find yourself in can change completely from day to day.”

The Lance Corporal also highlighted the importance of relationships between 45 Commando and the people of Arbroath as vital to troops’ morale. “When we came home there were no big parades through the town or anything. But we felt our efforts were appreciated. People sometimes stop you in the street, shake your hand and say ‘well done Royals’, or even do what we like the best and buy us a pint,” said LCpl Hare.

Following the lecture there was a vote of thanks by Iain Orr, the Head Teacher of Arbroath High School and an open question and answer session. The Royal Marines responded to a question about whether the local community could do more to support them by thanking people for their efforts and saying they felt highly valued – which was why so many chose to settle in the town after returning to civilian life.

Final thanks to the speakers was offered by Sue Black OBE FRSE, Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology at the University of Dundee, who had chaired the lecture. She added that her own experience of working in Iraq had shown her just how accomplished British forces are at winning the confidence of local people. Professor Black expressed appreciation for the work 45 Commando does on behalf of the British people saying LCpl Hare’s modest comments were “among the greatest understatements” she had heard at an RSE lecture.

L-R Professor Sue Black, Captain C Air, Cpl. J Hare, Iain Orr and Ronald Small, (Head Teacher and Deputy Head at Arbroath High School)
FUTURE EVENTS

April – June

Wealth Creation In Arbroath

Events for schools

RSE Secondary School and College Event- Quiz the Dragons
19 June 2008
Question Time Panel Event - successful entrepreneurs will be put under the spotlight to be challenged by students, as well as offering advice on developing the students' own projects in light of the panel's experience and expertise.
Contributions from: Dr. Ian Sword, Mr Ewan Brown, Mr Edward Cunningham, Councillor Robert Spink, Dr David Sibbald, Ms Julia Edgar, Mr Derek Smail, Professor Ian Underwood (Chair)

Events for public

Promoting Arbroath to visitors
“Celebrating the image of Arbroath as seen through the eyes of the young”. Local Primary school pupils will research attractions in Arbroath and then create their own views of the attractions using drawings, paintings, collages or photographs. The images they create will be used to promote Arbroath to visitors. Their creations will be displayed in local venues throughout Arbroath in the months ahead.

May – September

The Arts In Arbroath

Events for schools

RSE@Schools Illustrated Talk and Performance - Blurring the boundaries - from classical to contemporary music
21 May 2008
What are the similarities and differences between contemporary and classical approaches to music creation?
John Wallace, OBE, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama

RSE@Schools Talk and Sound Exhibition - How sound affects our everyday lives – blurring the boundaries between art and science
Professor Clive Greathead and Marianne Greathead, University of Edinburgh
June - details to be confirmed

Events for public

Public Lecture and Performance - Blurring the boundaries - from classical to contemporary music
21 May 2008
What are the similarities and differences between contemporary and classical approaches to music creation?
John Wallace, OBE, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama

All-day workshop - Artfest
Tuesday 1 July 2008
Drawing and painting objects found, and providing inspiration, at Hospitalfield
Artist George Donald

All-day workshop – Musical Theatre
August 2008 - details to be confirmed

August – December

Places In Arbroath

Events for schools

RSE Autumn Roadshow
Primary School Workshop
The Cliffs and beaches: wildlife/geology
Date: TBC
Alison O'Hara, Montrose Wildlife Basin

RSE Autumn Roadshow
Primary School Outdoor Activities
The Coastline, the harbour, local geology
Time & Date: TBC
Rachel Conway, Dundee Science Centre

RSE Autumn Roadshow
Primary School Workshops
The Cliffs: legends and myths
Time, Date & Venues: TBC
By the National Story Telling Centre

Events for public

RSE Christmas Public Lecture - Science and Arbroath in the 21st Century
10 December 2008
Professor Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland

Details of all of these events will be confirmed nearer the time. See our website - www.royalsoced.org.uk/schools/arbroath08/index.htm or contact the RSE Education Team - 0131 240 5035 - education@royalsoced.org.uk
Fellows’ Notice Board

RSE PRESIDENT HONOURED

Sir Michael Atiyah was Guestspeaker at the Awards Dinner of the Institute of Physics on 24 January 2008, where he was presented with the President’s Medal.

The medal is awarded for meritorious services to physics in general and the Institute in particular. It was given to Sir Michael in recognition of his outstanding contributions to a broad range of topics in mathematics, many of which have provided highly significant foundations to the development of theoretical physics; and of his eminent leadership within the scientific community.

FELLOWS DECEASED

It is with much regret that we record the deaths of the following Fellows:

Professor John Stuart ARCHER
John Christopher BARTHOLOMEW
Professor Philip Steven CORBET
Dr Henry Richard DOWSON
Professor Anders Hjorth HALD
Professor Heinz Rudolph SCHAFFER
Professor Walter Eric SPEAR
Professor Eldred Wright WALLS

DIARY DATES

2 May 2008 - New Fellows’ Induction
If you wish to attend the ceremony at 4.30 pm, please contact the events team at events@royalsoced.org.uk

6 October 2008 - Annual Statutory Meeting
A full list of dates for Council and Executive Board meetings for the year can be found at: www.royalsoced.org.uk/fellowship/meeting_dates.htm

FELLOWS HONOURED

The RSE offers its congratulations to the following Fellows who were honoured in Her Majesty The Queen’s New Year Honours List:

Knights Bachelor:
Professor Timothy Michael Martin O’Shea;
Professor John Stewart Savill;
Professor Ian Wilmut OBE;

Order of the British Empire; Commander (CBE):
Professor Michael Anthony John Ferguson

Professor Brian Burchell Professor of Medical Biochemistry at the University of Dundee was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science Honoris causa de l’Universit Henri Poincare, Nancy 1, Nancy, France on 12 November 2007.

Professor Eric E Clive, Honorary Professor of the University of Edinburgh was awarded an honorary doctorate in law by the University of Osnabrück in Germany on 11 January 2008.

Professor John A Beath, School of Economics and Finance, University of St Andrews was appointed Secretary-General of the Royal Economic Society at its AGM in March 2008.

STAFF NEWS

Carolann Stewart joined the staff on 18 February as Admin Receptionist.

The portrait of Sir Micheal Atiyah, painted last year by Juliet Wood (pictured left), is now on display at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in a room alongside portraits of Sir James Black, Professor David Ingram and Sir James Mirrlees.

CHANGES TO FELLOWSHIP ELECTION PROCESS

In response to the recommendations of the election process Review Group, there have been changes to the Criteria for Election, the Sectoral structure and the nomination forms for Fellowship.

The new nomination forms (Certificates of Recommendation) represent a significant development of the electoral process and will take longer to complete. The closing date is 31 May 2008.

Fellows may download these now and the support documents without needing a password from - http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/fellowship/noms

You will see that each nomination now consists of three parts:

- a Statement (as before);
- a Summary CV and two supporter’s forms.

Please read the cover page of the Certificate of Recommendation carefully which also states that only one Fellow associated with each nomination should be from the same Institution as the nominee, and a Fellow may only be associated with two new nominations for Ordinary Fellowship each year.

The portrait of Sir Micheal Atiyah, painted last year by Juliet Wood (pictured left), is now on display at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in a room alongside portraits of Sir James Black, Professor David Ingram and Sir James Mirrlees.
Enterprising Scotland

TEN-YEAR CELEBRATION OF ENTERPRISE FELLOWSHIPS IN SCOTLAND

An independent Ernst & Young Review had demonstrated the success of the Enterprise Fellowships scheme, showing that at least £70 m of investment has been made into the companies formed (90% from Venture Capital funds), 35 trading businesses have been set up, with a further nine in the pipeline, and that at least 220 new jobs in Scotland have been created. Funded by Scottish Enterprise and run by the RSE, this partnership has helped to create successful businesses ranging from yacht sail design and cleaning systems for the oil and gas industry to a platform technology for pest disease management.

A celebratory event was held in the Mitchell Library to mark the 10th anniversary of the Enterprise Fellowships programme. Over 150 people attended the event, including more than 30 past Enterprise Fellows. The Enterprise Fellows began the evening with a private audience with leading businessman and philanthropist, Sir Tom Hunter, (pictured right) giving them the opportunity to quiz Sir Tom on aspects of business in Scotland. The Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Strathclyde currently delivers the business training for the Enterprise Fellowship programme.

Tom Hunter was the keynote speaker for the evening and his humorous and motivational talk was well received. Sir Tom praised the success of the Enterprise Fellowships programme but challenged whether even more could be done and more quickly. He made a plea that Scotland does not limit its benchmarking to comparisons with England, but is instead ambitious on a global scale. Sir Tom congratulated the Enterprise Fellows on their commitment, vision and passion to succeed, telling them “Scotland needs you!”

Margaret McGarry, Scottish Enterprise, highlighted the findings of the Ernst & Young Review which demonstrated what good value the Fellowships programme has been and that public funds have been used wisely. For every £1 of public funds put into the programme, £15 had been generated through the new businesses formed. She also referred to the next phase of the Enterprise Fellowships programme, approved by the Board of Scottish Enterprise and supported by an overall funding package of £5.6 m.

Copies of the Ernst & Young Review are available from the RSE. Please contact Anne Fraser if you would like to receive one - resman@royalsoced.org.uk. Enterprise Fellowship application forms & regulations can be downloaded from the RSE website at: www.royalsoced.org.uk/research_fellowships/scot_ent.htm

Copies of the Ernst & Young Review are available from the RSE. Please contact Anne Fraser if you would like to receive one - resman@royalsoced.org.uk. Enterprise Fellowship application forms & regulations can be downloaded from the RSE website at: www.royalsoced.org.uk/research_fellowships/scot_ent.htm

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Please send any copy to Jenny Liddell at the Society - newsletter@royalsoced.org.uk
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