



# LUNAR SOCIETY NEWS

stimulating ideas broadening debate catalysing action

website  
www.lunarsociety.org.ukarts & heritage group  
soho foundrySociety's Town Hall debut  
14 Octoberyouth & diversity group  
creativity, futures, justice

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WORKSHOP & SUPPER

**WBS Frances O'Brien (WBS) & Maureen Meadows (OUBS)**A workshop supper & discussion session on scenario planning: *The Art of the Long View: possible scenarios for Birmingham.*

1830 for 1900 on 22 April at Martineau Johnson offices, 1 Colmore Square B4 6AA

### BOULTON & WATT COMMEMORATION with Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham

*Reflections on 18 months in Birmingham*

1800 on 12 May at St Mary's Church, Handsworth, B20 2RW.

### EUROPE'S LARGEST HINDU TEMPLE with Dr VP Narayan Rao & Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya

A tour, presentation &amp; discussion with a catered South Indian supper

1830 for 1900 on 3 June at Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple, Tividale, B69 3DU

### SUMMER SOCIAL

at the RSBP Centre, Sandwell Valley

A buffet (al fresco if fine), talk &amp; walk from 1800 for 1930 on 10 July at the RSBP Centre, Tanhouse Avenue, B43 5AG

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and LORD MAYOR'S RECEPTION

1830 on 23 July in the Banqueting Suite at the Council House

### Other 2008 dates for your diary

#### Thursday 25 September

Matthew Boulton by Dr Richard Clay

#### Tuesday 14 October

Sir Michael Lyons chairs Town Hall debate on climate change

#### Tuesday 18 November

Annual Dinner with Sir David Arculus

#### Tuesday 9 December

Winter Social at Highbury

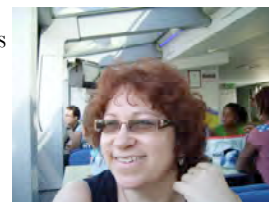
## AGM on 23 July — & welcome to new & potential members

The AGM & Review of the Year will be in the Council House and followed by the Lord Mayor's Reception. Please tell Kate Cooper asap if you want to put an item on the agenda and/or put yourself or another Member forward to serve on the Executive Committee.

This is also an excellent opportunity to introduce potential new members to the Society and for them to meet Members and learn more about the Society. Please do invite people to come who you think would be interested in joining.

## Youth & Diversity Group

The air seems full of discussion about Birmingham's possible futures, including the Society workshop meeting on 22 April. The Society's Youth & Diversity Group is putting its minds to this issue too. The sub-committee, chaired by Estelle Rowe (right) with Baz Chapman, David Kett, Hilary Rimmer, Bishop Mike Wilson and Joy Warmington have proposed two very different kinds of meeting for the 2009 programme.



The first would be an interactive showcase demonstrating the importance and range of creative industries in Birmingham. The second would be a meeting (format tbd) looking at the range of issues facing young people in the city with regard to the justice system, conceptions and misconceptions, and a discussion on how the Lunar Society might contribute to improving matters.

Do please let us know how interesting and relevant you think these meetings would be. (s.a. overleaf)

## Arts & Heritage Group

Following the decision at last year's AGM, the A&H sub-committee took up the issue of the parlous state of Soho Foundry and Mint with the major parties involved (English Heritage, Sandwell MBC and the owners of the site Avery-Weightronix). There is, we learn, emergency funding of some £0.5M to carry out sufficient repairs to protect the building for at least five years. However, everyone agrees this is a temporary position, and part of a wider problem with the site and the surrounding locality. Regenco are developing a regeneration strategy for the area (Soho Park), and it is expected that these plans will be available imminently. We're hoping the Lunar Society will be invited to attend a group comprising English Heritage, Sandwell MBC, Avery Weightronix, AWM and the Prince's Trust.

As Birmingham City Council is working on a proposal to have the Jewellery Quarter and Soho House declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, might it, we ask, also make sense to include Soho Foundry to make a more convincing proposition?



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**Frances O'Brien (WBS)**  
22 APRIL: 1, COLMORE SQ  
SCENARIOS & SUPPER

**Bishop of Birmingham**  
12 MAY: ST MARY'S CHURCH  
BOULTON & WATT COMM

**Dr V P Naryan Rao**  
3 JUNE: BALAJI TEMPLE  
TOUR Q&A BUFFET

**RSBP Centre**  
10 JULY: SUMMER SOCIAL

## The next generation . . . & the Society

The December 07 newsletter reported Liam Byrne & Michael Parkinson's thinking that the Society could play a significant role in stimulating and broadening debate on several issues, especially how to bring forward the leadership generation of the future.

In addition to the activity described overleaf, we have had a meeting with Birmingham Future to see how we might collaborate. We're also exploring how the Commission for Equality and Human Rights might contribute to the city's endeavour to find and develop leading thinkers and decision-makers from our young and culturally diverse population. After the 2007 Annual Dinner, Trevor Phillips offered CEHR support and so, with Aston's Pro-VC Alison Halstead, Deirdre Kelly and Kate Cooper will meet Trevor Phillips in London in May.

## Climate change: Society to host major debate in Town Hall

Following our successful Annual Lecture this year to a capacity audience at the Medical School, the Society has set in motion another big public event on climate change, one of our five strategic themes.

The Stern Report put the socioeconomic impact of climate change on the agenda of the world's governments. Lunarman Sir Michael Lyons is to chair a Society panel discussion on this topic in Town Hall on 14 October 2008.

Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, Reith Lecturer and former Chief Economist of the OECD David Henderson, IPN chair Julian Morris and the Director of the European Environmental



Agency Professor Jacques McGlade have already

agreed to join the panel, and we will bring two or three more distinguished guests to the party.

These lively-minded and sometimes controversial people will debate, among other matters, what action we should be taking in response to the likely or

unlikely impact of climate change on lifestyles and societies, & what kinds of institutions and institutional processes we need to meet both real and perceived threats.

This event will be open to the public through Town Hall Box Office. Society members will have priority booking at a discounted rate . . . as well as the chance to put individual points of view in the public forum or in private conversation with Sir Michael and the panelists at a buffet supper afterwards.

## Website & e-payment systems

After all sorts of delays and problems, we're finally ready to go live with the Members' Only section of the website. At the time of writing, we're testing the e-payment system so you can book and pay for events on-line and we hope will have this service up and running by you're reading this newsletter.



## THE LUNAR SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new Members Dr Steve Bell of the Rep; Cynthia Bower, CX WM Strategic Health Authority; Hortons CEO Robert Blyth; Kirk Dawes QPM; Dr Gill Derrick, Deputy Clinical Director at the Children's Hospital; Julie Ford solicitor at Mills & Reeve; Mario Minichiello, BCU's new Professor of Visual Communication; WMG's Siward James-Moore; Joe Jabbar a web programmer; GP Dr Hilary Parle; Dr Ann Pursey, CEO of BaS Ltd; Dean of the Medical School Professor Michael Sheppard; Dr Nick Winterbotham, ThinkTank's CEO; Professor Miroslav Wyszynski — and a special welcome to new Associate Members Kate Baker, a Graduate Engineer with Ramboll Whitby Bird and Gigbeth's Clare Edwards.

## THE LUNAR SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMAN

**Deirdre Kelly**

### DEPUTY CHAIRMEN

**Alan Wenban-Smith**

**John Charlton**

### HON SECRETARY

**Michael Overduin**

### HON TREASURER

**Richard Samuda**

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

**Peter Mayer**

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**David Lock**

**Tracey Lucas**

**Julie Moore**

**Estelle Rowe**

**Judith Taylor**

**Peter Ullathorne**

### contact info

**Kate Cooper**

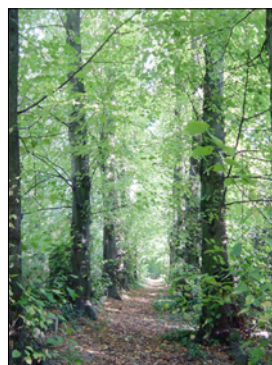
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## On the wild side of town . . .



St Mary's Church graveyard, both photographs reproduced with kind permission.  
Above left taken by Mark Purcell; above right by Simon Baddeley.

The RSPB Nature Reserve in Sandwell Valley  
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