



# LUNAR SOCIETY NEWS

stimulating ideas broadening debate catalysing action

website  
[www.lunarsociety.org.uk](http://www.lunarsociety.org.uk)

Byrne & Parkinson  
Birmingham's potential

join  
a Society Group

the Society's first  
associate members

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WINTER SOIREE

#### Town Hall Concert & Supper

Black Voices, Brum's famous cappella choir, followed by a supper party marking Amanda Cadman's retirement. 1930 on 15th December at Town Hall

### DISCUSSION SUPPER

#### with Cllr Salma Yaqoob

Cllr Salma Yaqoob will be talking on *Forty years on from Martin Luther King: Are we still dreaming?* and leading a discussion over supper at Aston Business School. 1800 for 1830 on 24th January at Aston Business School, Aston Triangle, B4 7ET.

### DISCUSSION DINNER

#### with Prof Sir Ian Kennedy

Sir Ian Kennedy will lead a Society Discussion Dinner on the topic of *Regulating Healthcare: Why, Who and How?* 1830 for 1845 on 19th February at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, B15 3TR.

### LUNAR SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE by Prof Sir Liam Donaldson, CMO

Sir Liam Donaldson, the UK's Chief Medical Officer will give the 2008 Annual Lecture *The Challenges for Medicine in the 21st century* on 5 March. 1800 on 5th March in the Leonard Deacon Theatre, the Medical School, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT.

### Other 2008 dates for your diary

#### Boulton & Watt Commemoration

**12th May:** Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham at St Mary's Church, Handsworth, B20 2RW.

#### Annual Dinner on 18th November

Sir David Arculus.

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## 2008 Annual Lecture by Sir Liam Donaldson, CMO

The Society & the University of Birmingham Medical School are co-hosting our Annual Lecture for the first time. This prestigious event is on 5 March 2008 in the Leonard Deacon Theatre at the Medical School. It will be delivered by Sir Liam Donaldson, the UK's Chief Medical Officer on **The Challenges for Medicine in the 21st century**.



## Liam Byrne & Prof Parkinson on Birmingham's potential

In October the Executive held a discussion dinner with Liam Byrne MP, Government Minister for the West Midlands, who said that the Society is in *an unrivalled position to do some thinking* around three main areas:



- ◆ How civic and commercial partners can collaborate with new flexibilities to invest in transport.
- ◆ How arts, culture, sports and heritage can help regenerate our economy and connect better to our young people.
- ◆ How we bring forward the leadership generation of the future, and ensure today's civic & commercial leadership better reflects the rich ethnic mix of our region.

Liam Byrne's words were echoed at the Boulton & Watt Commemoration Lecture (see website), in which Professor Michael Parkinson reminded us that our major civic strength is our culturally diverse population, and our notably young population. Both Liam Byrne and Professor Parkinson felt the Society could play a role in stimulating and broadening the debate on these matters of such importance to the city, the wider region and beyond. The Society's chosen strategic themes reflect these messages (see below).

## Want to be involved? Join one of the Society's new Groups

*If you would like to play a more active role in Society affairs*, please consider joining one of the Groups listed below by contacting Kate Cooper

GROUP	CHAIR
Arts & Heritage	Peter Ullathorne
Medicine & Science	Michael Overduin
Investment & Regeneration	John Charlton
Transport & Climate Change	Alan Wenban-Smith
Youth & Diversity	Estelle Rowe

(contact info overleaf).

Each Group has the remit to consider one of five themes (see left) and will develop ideas for topics and speakers for Society meetings and activities.

The Executive also has two Standing Committees — the Programme Committee chaired by Deirdre Kelly, and the Membership Committee chaired by Peter Mayer — which Members might also wish to consider joining.

Black Voices  
15 DEC: TOWN HALL  
CONCERT

Cllr Salma Yaqoob  
24 JAN: ASTON  
BUSINESS SCHOOL

Sir Ian Kennedy  
19 FEB: BIRMINGHAM  
BOTANICAL GARDENS

Sir Liam Donaldson  
5 MAR: BIRMINGHAM  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

## Spring meetings: Cllr Salma Yaqoob & Sir Ian Kennedy



Before the Annual Lecture on 5 March, we have two other spring meetings, both in the tradition of the original Lunarmen — congenial, lively conversation over meal. On 24 January, Councillor Salma Yaqoob representing the Sparkbrook Ward since May 2006, will lead a discussion on *Forty Years on from Martin Luther King: Are we still dreaming?* And on 19 February, the Chairman of the Healthcare Commission, Sir Ian Kennedy, will be stimulating debate on *Regulating Healthcare: Why, Who and*

*How?* Both events have restricted places; members have priority but if you want to come to either event, please book sooner rather than later.

## Climate change, regional universities & public debate

Our climate change initiative began after the 2006 Annual Lecture by Sir John Lawton (right). The Society still plays a role in broadening the debate, for example, on the controversy on the balance to be struck between adaptation and prevention, the economic value of alternative approaches, and the relatively unexplored issue of social impact and behavioural responses.



The WMHEA Strategic Board responded to the draft report of the Discussion Dinner we hosted last July for VCs and other senior figures from local universities (see website or the last newsletter) suggesting the Society “develops a programme for

*public engagement, debate and knowledge dissemination around climate change and the use of technologies*” whilst also citing a number of regional groups (the Innovation & Technology Council, the Environmental Technologies Cluster, Science City and the Energy Technologies Institute) in which WMHEA members are heavily committed.



The Transport and Climate Change Group will be looking at the best way to work with individual academics and institutions in delivering an engagement programme to broaden the debate. They hope to persuade Sir John Lawton to return for a Society event, and Lord Lawson of Blaby, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and member of the House of Lords Inquiry into the Economics of Climate Change, has already agreed to debate issues at a Society meeting in April 2008 (date tba).

## Website development & the on-line payment system

The website continues to generate about 2.6K individual visits per month. It also attracts many serious enquires about Society activities and potential membership. The Members’ Only section and the on-line payment system for events and meetings has been delayed as we are still awaiting Merchant ID from our Bankers. We now hope to pilot the system in December, and go live in the New Year . . . so expect an email inviting you to register then!

## THE LUNAR SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to all our new Members, Bart Dalton II, David Barrington, Cllr Steve Bedser, Dr David Brown, Jaswinder Hewitt JP, Chris Plumley, Jean-Luc Priez and John Taylor, and a very special welcome to first two Associate members — Helen Boyle, Development Manager at THSH and Saulo Menezes de Oliveira, a Marketing Co-ordinator at Eversheds.

## 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**  
\* elected 2007 AGM

### contact info

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## A young city . . .

It’s widely known that Birmingham has a big advantage in being a demographically young city. This ONS chart (right) shows the significance of this by comparing the our population in Birmingham with that of England as a whole.

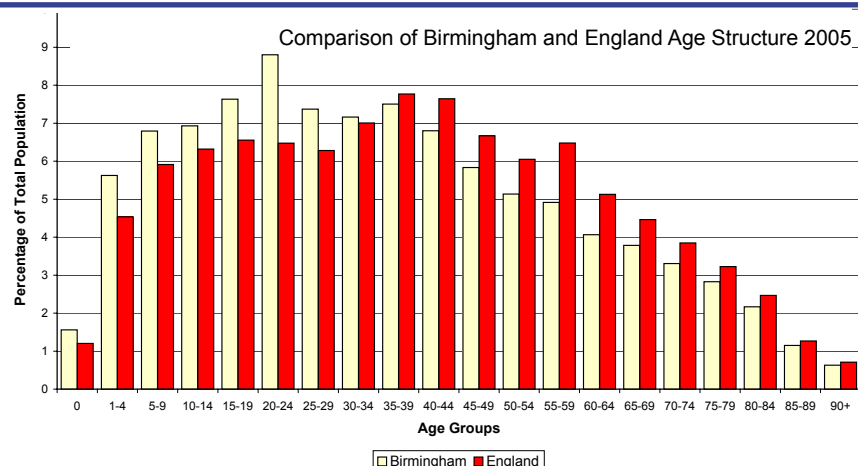


Chart source: National Statistics website  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

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