

The Society welcomes and engages with speakers of national and international renown including scientists, engineers, bankers, social and policy decision-makers, leaders of local authorities, universities and the local media. Current themes are youth & diversity, science & medicine, the arts & heritage, transport & climate change and regeneration.

### Past speakers include:

Sir John Armit, *Chairman of Network Rail*

Sir Albert Aynsley-Green, *The Children's Commissioner*

Sir Nicholas Goodison, *Courtauld Institute of Art*

Baroness Susan Greenfield, *Director of the Royal Institution*

Mervyn King, *Governor of the Bank of England*

Sir John Lawton, *Chair of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution*

The Rt Hon David Miliband, *Secretary of State*

Sir Paul Nurse, *Nobel prize winner, President of the Rockefeller University*

Trevor Phillips, *Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission*

Sir Paul Scott-Lee, *Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police*

Clare Short, *MP*



### MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new Members to the Society, people who wish to make a contribution to stimulating ideas, broadening debate and catalysing action.

We offer individual membership, associate membership with a reduced subscription for people under 35 years old, and Corporate Membership for organisations in both the private and the public sector.

### CONTACT

If you would like to know more about the Society, please visit

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

or contact the Secretary to the Society

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**THE LUNAR SOCIETY**  
stimulating ideas broadening debate catalysing action



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**The present-day Lunar Society provides a dynamic forum for its membership to influence change through focusing and informing debate, linking social, economic, scientific and cultural thinking, and catalysing action on issues critical to the common good.**

## **In the late 18th century, the meetings of a few fertile minds changed an age.**



The original Lunar men gathered for lively dinner conversations, the journey back from their meeting places lit by the full moon. They included the larger-than-life physician Erasmus Darwin, a man of extraordinary intellectual insight with his own pioneering ideas on

evolution, the flamboyant entrepreneur Matthew Boulton, the brilliant engineer James Watt who harnessed the power of steam, the radical polymath Joseph Priestley who, among wide ranging achievements, isolated oxygen, and the innovative potter and social reformer Josiah Wedgwood. Their debates brought together philosophy, arts, science and commerce, but as well as debating and discovering, the 'Lunatics' also built canals and factories, managed world-class businesses — and changed the face of Birmingham.

In the 200-plus years since the original Society, Birmingham and the region have changed beyond recognition. It is now a lively, multicultural city, open to the world. Its industrial base has high technology, medicine and legal services as well as modern manufacturing. It is also notably a young city, with a high proportion of under-35s.

Yet what is still the same is the need to adapt continuously, to connect across different agendas and perspectives, and the need to engage local energy and effort in making change succeed. We are at the forefront of this, contributing to an innovative agenda throughout this region and beyond.



**Today's Lunar Society has several hundred members and includes leading practitioners from all walks of life in Birmingham and the wider region, people who are prepared to help shape the scientific, political and social agenda not just here in Birmingham and the West Midlands, but nationally and internationally.**

