



LUNAR SOCIETY NEWS

stimulating ideas broadening debate catalysing change

new website
www.lunarsociety.org.uk

new category
associate membership

new chairman
professor deirdre kelly

universities
discussion dinner

UPCOMING EVENTS

DISCUSSION MEETING

Yvonne Baker (CEO STEMNET) & Barry Lewis (STEMNET WM) will lead a discussion chaired by Prof Peter Marsh on *The war for talent in science*.
s.a. www.stemnet.org.uk

1830 on 11 September at St Alban's CE Specialist Engineering College, Angelina St, Highgate, B12 0UU.

BOULTON & WATT COMMEMORATION

Prof Sir Michael Parkinson, author of Birmingham City Centre Masterplan talking on *Where is Birmingham going in the 21st century?*
s.a. www.ljmu.ac.uk/EIUA

1830 on 2 October at Austin Court, Brindley Place, B1 2NP.

LUNAR SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

Trevor Phillips, OBE, Chair of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. s.a. www.cehr.org.uk
1900 for 1930 on 14 November
Banqueting Suite, Council House

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This year's Winter Soiree is a concert with Black Voices, Birmingham's cappella choir, followed by a buffet supper.
1930 on 15 December at Town Hall.

STOP PRESS: RESONANCE PROJECT

Free event: 1800-1930 on Tues 13 Nov @ Henry Wellcome Building (off Vincent Drive). Birmingham Contemporary Music Group in collaboration with the Society. See website for more information.

www.lunarsociety.org.uk

Welcome to new Members

A very warm welcome to our new Members, more than 20 in the last few months. They include Julia King and Nigel Thrift, VCs of Aston and Warwick respectively; both are already involved in discussions regarding climate change and the role the universities might take (see over).

Lunar Society Medals for Sir Adrian & Sir Richard

One of the last tasks of the outgoing Chairman John Charlton at the AGM was to announce two winners of the Lunar Society Medal this year. Following in Dame Rachel Waterhouse's footsteps are Sir Adrian Cadbury and Sir Richard Knowles, both distinguished men who have given so much to Birmingham. The presentations will be made at the Society's Annual Dinner on 14 November when Trevor Phillips will be our Guest Speaker.

Congratulations to Members . . .

Parvin Ali OBE and John Charlton CBE for their awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours . . . Sir Michael Lyons on his appointment as Chair of the BBC Trust (www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust), a distinction he achieved after leading a lively discussion with us just before the publication of the Lyons Inquiry Final Report last March . . . & on a lighter note, Professor Jack Cohen for his very favourably reviewed Radio 3 broadcast *Life but not as we know it* on 16 July.

Deirdre Kelly: the Society's new Chairman

Our new Chairman, Deirdre Kelly, Professor of Paediatric Hepatology at the University of Birmingham, came to the city in 1989 to set up the National Liver Unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital, where from 2000 to 2007 she was Medical Director. At our AGM on 26 July, she set her vision for her two-year term of office. Emphasising the uniqueness of the Society and its ability through its neutral position to facilitate discussion and debate, she stated:

We, in the Lunar Society, need to be more open, to look to the future, to seek out challenge and innovation and, most importantly, to reflect changes in our city, our culture and our society . . . Our traditional industries are changing from motor cars and manufacturing to financial and legal services, to science and technology. We need to be at the forefront of this change and contribute to an innovative agenda for regeneration throughout the region . . . We need to raise our public profile with a clear strategy and focus on the leading issues of the day.

We need to do this by utilising our most important resource, you, our members to help us influence the political and social agenda, not just in Birmingham and the West Midlands, but nationally.

The full text of her AGM speech can be read on the website.



Yvonne Baker
11 SEPT: MEETING
ST ALBAN'S COLLEGE

Sir Michael Parkinson
2 OCT: BOULTON & WATT
COMMEMORATION

Trevor Phillips
14 NOV: ANNUAL DINNER
COUNCIL HOUSE

Black Voices
15 DEC: TOWN HALL
CONCERT

New associate membership for the under 35s

At the AGM, it was decided to create a new associate membership, with a reduced subscription fee of £50 per annum, for those under 35. This is part of the Society's drive to attract lively movers and shakers of the future.

Climate change: A role for regional universities?

Following Sir John Lawton's 2006 Annual Lecture on Climate Change and David Miliband's speech at the Annual Dinner later in the year, the City Region responded to the Society's 2006 challenge to aim to become carbon neutral by 2030 — an example of how the Society can play a catalytic role for the common good within regional affairs.

The Society's Climate Change Group led a Universities Dinner Discussion meeting on 2 July, kindly hosted by Mills & Reeve, to explore the distinctive contribution our universities can make, by virtue of their fund of scholarship, knowledge, energy and skills, to the region's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030, and to explore what carbon neutrality will mean for our community and for societies in the wider national and international context.

The briefing document for this event can be downloaded from the website (HOME—LATEST NEWS—UNIVERSITIES AT DISCUSSION DINNER). A summary of the discussion (see reverse of the Booking Form) is enclosed for your information *and for your comments please*. The final report is due to be published at the end of October.

The new website

The Society launched its new website (www.lunarsociety.org.uk) in early June. If you've given the Society your email address, you will receive information about how to access the members' only section within the next couple of months and, dependent on our successful acquisition of Merchant ID status, how you will be able to make on-line bookings of our events and meetings.

We'll still be communicating with you via snail mail — as an example, this revamped newsletter will be arriving quarterly. Ideas for contributions and other comments welcome!

Amanda Cadman's retirement

As many of you know, Amanda is retiring at the end of November. She has been the Society's hugely popular Administrator since its modern-day inception and we shall miss her greatly. We will be marking her time with the Society at the Winter Soiree on 15 December, an opportunity for all of us to express our gratitude for her work and our affection for her.

The Society is going through a period of great change, in part driven by the opportunities that new technologies offer. Kate Cooper is taking over the running of the Society as an interim measure to ensure as seamless a service as possible for our Members while the changes we're implementing become fully operational. See right for her contact details.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY ELECTIONS

At the AGM, the Society's Honorary Officers are elected for a 2-year term, and its Committee Members for a 3-year term. Retiring Hon Officers and members are eligible for re-election, normally for no more than two further terms.

At this year's AGM on 26 July, Deirdre Kelly was elected the Society's new Chairman. John Charlton, having completed a 2-year term as Chairman, becomes co-Deputy with Alan Wenban-Smith, who was elected to the post at the AGM. Michael Overduin was elected Hon Secretary.

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 at the AGM

new contact info

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About . . . the region's canals, open spaces, trees, nature reserves



Whether Brum has more miles of canals than Venice is a moot point, but the Birmingham Canal Navigation system certainly does. It has 114 miles, only 60 miles fewer than in the mid-18th century. According to UNESCO figures, Venice's 150 canals and 409 bridges comprise a mere 50 km of waterway.

There are more than 8,000 acres of parks and open spaces in Birmingham. The City Council is responsible for over 94,000 street trees and the largest urban nature reserve in Europe, the 2,400 acres of Sutton Park. The City's Nature Conservation Strategy, well over 10 years in, was one of the first for an urban area following the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992.

There are two National Nature Reserves in the city region (the Wren's Nest at Dudley as well as Sutton Park) and a further 22 Local Nature Reserves in Birmingham and the Black Country.