



Bulletin Issue 5 October 2010

Editorial

As mentioned in the previous issue, any Bulletin of this type relies on some input from members e.g. visit reports, interesting facts, book reviews etc. Unfortunately nothing new has been received since and therefore this issue will be somewhat limited.

As we start a new season of what looks to be a very interesting programme, we wish Richard success as our new Chairman and once again thank past Chairman Peter for all the work he put into making the Society so successful.

Members

We welcome the following members who have joined the Society since the previous Bulletin. Martin Egerton, Armanda Egerton, Trevor Jones, David Loshak, Philip Luxton, Edward Penfold, Michael Roe, Peter Scott, and Cynthia Tilbury.

Sadly we report that Marcus Wood, who joined the Society in 2003, died in May.

Forthcoming Events

The Cheltenham Literary Festival runs from 8 – 17 October and although there is little of scientific background on 10 October, Steven Hawking will be reflecting on “The Grand Design” and on 16 October Graciela Chilchilnsky, Charles Emmerson and Jonathon Porritt will talk about “Green Futures: After Copenhagen.

Archive Awareness archiveawareness.com has just launched its *Discovery Campaign* celebrating British ingenuity in science, technology and medicine. The Campaign uncovers the stories behind some of the most groundbreaking inventions from the nineteenth century and highlights the role of the men and women who made outstanding contributions to the field. Inventors, industrialists, engineers and mavericks all played their parts.

This campaign celebrates a huge range of achievements. Events are being held throughout the autumn and winter, including celebrations to mark the Society's 350th anniversary and UNESCO's Year of Biodiversity and scientific exhibitions, talks and open days all over the country.

Log onto www.archiveawareness.com/events and

- Learn about Britain's pioneering nineteenth century nurse at Hampshire Archives.
- Find out about Wolverhampton's Unsung Heroes of Science
- Discover the story of Sir William Armstrong, Tyneside engineer, inventor and industrialist
- Go to The British Postal Museum & Archive open day on 'Sickness and Disease' where you can delve into past records from the Post Office Medical Department
- Visit The National Archives and find out about some of the major scientific and technological advances made during the First and Second World Wars.
- **Science Museum Library and Archives** (in Wroughton, Swindon) will be holding a series of events to promote awareness of their collections in the local community. There will be open mornings and afternoons once a month from now to December 2010.
These will be based around the general theme of "Discovery: Looking at Scientific Archives in a Different Way". Each month will focus on a particular way of looking at scientific archives. The first one will be a general overview of their holdings, followed by family history; social history; military history and local history. Each morning or afternoon event will include a display of material depicting the relevant sub-theme of science and technology, a behind the scenes tour and a short talk.

News/Comments

Work is now underway on the Bristol & Bath Science Park with the major infrastructure almost complete. The first buildings should be available by June 2011. Anyone who would like to monitor progress should use the official web-site: www.s-park.org.uk

Thousands of UK businesses risk fines of up to £45,000 by failing to register with the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. Only weeks before the 30 September deadline less than 1,300 of the expected 4,000 public and private sector organisations affected by the scheme had registered with the Environmental Agency.

Launched in April, the scheme requires all organisations that consume more than 6,000 megawatt hours of power and use half-hourly energy meters to declare their energy use. They will be then charged for each tonne of greenhouse gas they produce with payments expected to average £38,000 a year for a medium-sized business and £100,000 for larger organisations. Critics argue the scheme to lower the UK's CO₂ emissions has not been properly publicised, with one survey showing that 54% of business

professionals had never heard of the scheme. Others argue it is overly complex with a 99-page user guide, which takes 16 pages to explain which organisations have to register.

Greg Barker, energy and climate change minister, conceded the scheme could be improved but claimed that it would encourage significant savings.

The Binding Site, a biomedical development company started by three Medical School researchers, has won the 2010 Queen's Award for Enterprise in the International Trade category.

The win, for its achievement in increasing export revenues to more than £42 million a year and selling more than 90% of its production overseas, marks the third time it has claimed one of the national accolades since its beginnings in 1983.

Set up in 1983 by husband and wife Professor Jo Bradwell (MBChB Medicine, 1968) and Dr Barbara Scott (BSc Biological Sciences, 1977; PhD Medicine, 1981) along with their Medical School colleague Roger Drew, The Binding Site has become a multi-million pound business employing almost 500 people around the world.

The company's exceptional growth is largely driven by sales of 'Freelite', a unique tumour marker for several bone marrow cell cancers, for which the Binding Site won the Queen's Award for Innovation in 2007.

Tailpiece

Importance of PhD advisors (from "Fortune", reported by Berthe Choueiry)

In a forest a fox bumps into a little rabbit, and says, "Hello there, what are you up to?" "I'm writing a dissertation on how rabbits eat foxes," said the rabbit.

"Come now, friend rabbit, you know that's impossible!"

"Well, follow me and I'll show you."

They both go into the rabbit's dwelling and after a while the rabbit emerges with a satisfied expression on his face. Then a wolf appears. "Hello, what are we doing these days?"

"I'm writing the second chapter of my thesis, on how rabbits devour wolves."

"Are you crazy? Where is your academic honesty?"

"Come with me and I'll show you."

As before, the rabbit comes out with a satisfied look on his face and a diploma in his paw. Finally, there inside the rabbit's burrow we see a mean-looking, huge lion sitting next to some bloody and furry remnants of the wolf and the fox.

The moral: It's not the contents of your thesis that are important -- it's your PhD advisor that really counts.