

## Bulletin Issue 11 January 2014

### Editorial

We are now into the second half of our year and thanks are again due to Geoff Ludbrook for the continued high quality of the lectures. Professor Williams lecture on Edward Jenner was particularly good and attracted a near capacity audience. Thanks are also due to Professor Gaskell who stepped into the breach at the last minute when the Public Lecture speaker dropped out.

### Members

We welcome the following members who have joined the Society: Liz and Peter Applegate, Patricia Bickerton, Roy Brocklehurst, Barbara Brockway, David and Valerie Burford, Haley Butcher, John Cima, Norma Foster, Jeffrey Harrison, Anthony Harrison, David Hillam, Megan Jones, Graham Lovatt, John Markey, John McWilliam, Susan and Terry Mockler, Rory Murphy, Adeline Nichols, Hugh Perkess, Maggie and Tim Shepherd, John Taylor, Sonia Thomas, Colin Watts and Ronald Wright.

### News/Comments

In December the [World Bank Group](#) launched its first Massive Open Online Course, (MOOC) hosted on the education platform [Coursera](#). The four week course was free and contained a snapshot of the most recent scientific evidence and practical actions on what you can do about tackling climate change, a challenge that affects us all.

Two Bristol companies have joined forces with international technology company Renishaw to break new ground in 3D printing. While 3D printing has been around for some years and has the potential to completely reshape product development, it isn't yet repeatable on a large scale, meaning it cannot be used to mass-produce objects.

Additive manufacturing company Hieta and software developer Sysemia are now working with Renishaw, the UK's only manufacturer of a metal-based 3D printing machine, to find ways of scaling up the process.

Funding has been provided by the UK's innovation agency, the Technology Strategy Board – an organisation set up by Government to stimulate and

support business-led innovation. The project's aim is to produce 50,000 recuperators per year, (a device that recovers waste heat in engines), within a three to five year period.

The project started from a partnership that began at the Bristol & Bath Science Park, where Hieta and Sysemia are based. Mike Adams, chief executive officer at Hieta Technologies, said: "One of the biggest challenges our industry faces is how to commercialise 3D printed products. We expect this project to completely redefine the boundaries of additive manufacturing and prove that a large number of the same object can be produced at a competitive cost.

## **Forthcoming Events**

9<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> March is the Oxfordshire Science Festival which offers events for young children right through to adults. Last year's festival attracted more than 30,000 participants. There are events for professional scientists and people with an interest in science: however most events are aimed at regular people who just want to have fun and perhaps explore a topic that is important to them.

10 -23 March is the National Science & Engineering Week – a ten-day celebration of science, engineering and technology with events, experiments and activities across the UK. It is a great opportunity for people of all ages, areas and organisations to take part in science, engineering and technology activities. Find out more from the British Science Association website [www.britishscienceassociation.org](http://www.britishscienceassociation.org).

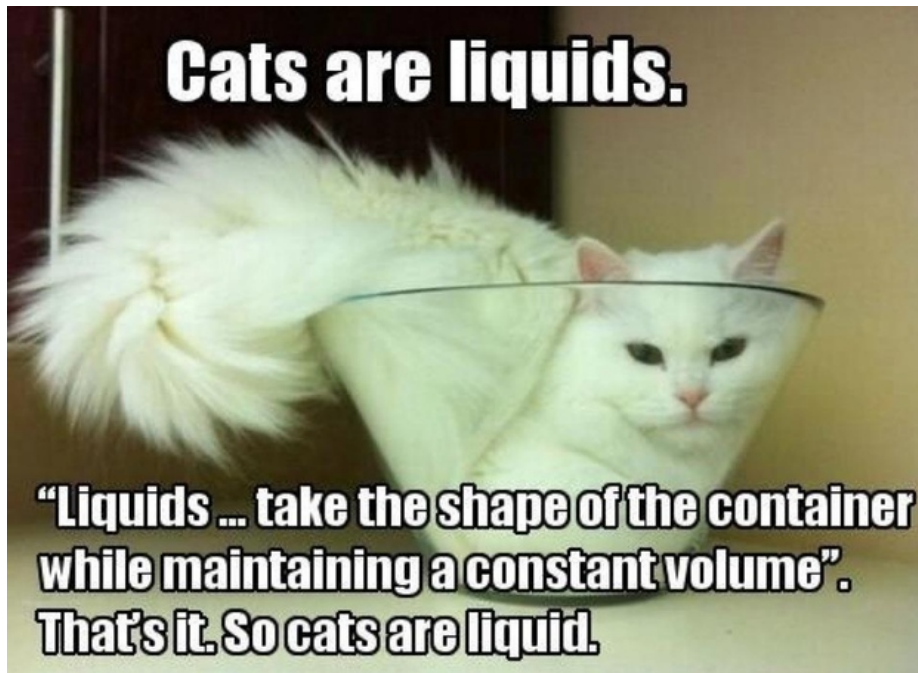
The Association is also organising a science festival in Birmingham from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The local British Science Association is the Bristol & Bath branch which can be found at [www.bscia-bsba.org.uk/](http://www.bscia-bsba.org.uk/)

The Cheltenham Science Festival is from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> of June this year. Members are encouraged to write up summaries of any lectures they attend for publication in the next Bulletin.

The UK's festival of eco ideas, art and entertainment will be back in the centre of Bristol from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Bristol is the European Green Capital 2015 – the first ever UK city to win this award – so this June's festival will be extra big. Join 50,000 visitors enjoying two weekends of free family entertainment and nine days of inspiring talks, workshops, art, poetry, comedy and films. More information is available at: <http://biggreenweek.com/>

## Tailpiece



### One final thought:

If the world should blow itself up, the last audible voice would be that of an expert saying it can't be done.

- *Peter Ustinov*

