



Cambridge Society for the Application of Research

Churchill College  
Storey's Way  
Cambridge  
CB3 0DS

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

## "The Physiology of Autumn"

Professor Brian J Ford  
President of the CSAR

7.30pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2010

The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, **Churchill College**, Storey's Way, Cambridge

### **About the Lecture:**

Our President writes:

"The flaming colours of autumnal leaves are a spectacular feature of the seasonal landscape. Yet what do they signify? We have been taught that the colours are revealed as chlorophyll is withdrawn from the dead and dying leaves, and that leaves are shed to prevent damage during the long winter months. This presentation demonstrates how these conventional views can be challenged.

A different theoretical approach reveals that the loss of leaves has a profoundly important physiological significance in the life of vascular plants, and this view is currently percolating through the annals of botanical science. This illustrated presentation touches upon the many senses that plants possess, and uses the internet to show how we can document the changing status of a different approach to physiological theory."

### **About the speaker**

Brian J Ford is President of CSAR. He has served at the Institute of Biology on Council and as Chairman of the Committee for the History of Biology, and writes for both the *Biologist* and the *Journal of Biological Education*. He has also served on Council of the Linnaean Society, where he was Zoological Secretary and is Honorary Surveyor of Scientific instruments. Ford was appointed Visiting Professor at the University of Leicester in 2006, is a Fellow and Member of Court at Cardiff University; Honorary Fellow of Keynes College, University of Kent at Canterbury and former Fellow at the Open University. He was a NESTA Fellow 2004-2008.

Ford's research has been extensively published in journals including *New Scientist*, *Scientific American*, *Nature*, *The Microscope* and the *British Medical Journal*. He has written for *The Times* and *The Guardian* and is the author over 30 scientific books, many of which have been translated and published internationally. He is well known for many programmes on radio and television.

## The Organising Secretary adds....

Our programme this year includes the usual wide range of topics, but with a slightly more mathematical focus than usual. This is not intentional – it is just how the programme evolved. The range is still eclectic; from the molecular modelling of anaesthetics to high temperature superconductors, the colours of autumn to the mathematics of large assemblies. On the way, we encounter the DNA profiling of horses, protein crystallography, peanut allergies and human diabetes.

Not to mention exploring under an Antarctic ice shelf using a robotic submarine (powered by 5000 D-cell batteries). There should be plenty to keep us occupied.

We may have to decamp from the Wolfson for a lecture or two early in the New Year. The College is carrying out more refurbishment. Watch out for information in our flyers and on our website.

Please note that **two lectures are on TUESDAYS**. These are the lectures of 8<sup>th</sup> February (Ice Sheet Changes in the Antarctic) and 26<sup>th</sup> April (DNA Profiling of Horses).

See you all on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**, I hope. **Tea, Coffee** and **Biscuits** will be available in the Foyer outside the Wolfson, as usual.

Best Regards

Richard Freeman

Organising Secretary

Phone 01799 525 948 (home); 01707 398 729 (work); 07500 444 985 (mobile)

Email: [richard.freeman@ntlworld.com](mailto:richard.freeman@ntlworld.com) (home, [richardf@exemplas.com](mailto:richardf@exemplas.com) (work)

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If you wish to join and enjoy the many benefits of membership, please complete the following, and return it with payment to a CSAR officer, or post it to Barry Thompson at the address below. Cheques payable to '**Cambridge Society for the Application of Research**' may be handed to one of our officers, or sent by post to: **Barry Thompson**, Hauser Forum, 3 Charles Babbage Road, Cambridge CB3 0GT (**note new address**).

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