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**For forthcoming lectures, see  
<http://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/5366>**

## **Observing the Invisible;**

### **Celebrating Leeuwenhoek's 375th anniversary**

Professor Brian J Ford, President of the CSAR

7.30 p.m., Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2007

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

#### **Professor Brian Ford writes:**

"The father of the microscope, Antony van Leeuwenhoek, was born 375 years ago this week. Here we rediscover his work.

Leeuwenhoek's observations of microorganisms, made when he was a middle-aged amateur enthusiast, laid the ground for the modern science of biological microscopy. His career belies those who insist that innovative science is the province of the young, or best done by teams: he worked obsessively alone, often refusing to receive visiting notables who shared his interests, and did not begin his lifetime of endeavour until he was forty years old. Yet – by the time he died, on 30 August, 1723 – he had devoted half-century to diligent research, effectively founding observational microscopy and laying the ground-work for microscopical experimentation.

This illustrated presentation shows us exactly what he could see with his tiny microscopes, and explains the secret source of his inspiration. "

#### **About the speaker:**

Professor Brian J Ford needs no introduction to CSAR members; a stalwart supporter of our Society for years, we finally decided that he'd served a sufficient apprenticeship, and elected him President earlier this year! And a very good President he is, too!

Brian is one of today's few polymaths, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of many things. The best summary of Brian's talents is to be found in Wikipedia -

#### **Council**

Prof Brian J Ford (*President*)  
Dr Richard Jennings (*Vice President*)  
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Mr Chris Smart  
Dr Debbie Stokes  
Mr Jim Cleland

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian\\_J.\\_Ford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_J._Ford)

Suffice it to say that Brian knows an awful lot about light microscopy, and to prove it he has produced some stunning images, which I am sure he will share with us.

He is also the country's expert on Leeuwenhoek, and even uncovered some of his original works! He is Visiting Professor at the University of Leicester, Fellow and Member of Court at Cardiff University where he is also President of Past Students; Honorary Fellow of Keynes College, University of Kent at Canterbury and former Fellow at the Open University.

### **The Organising Secretary adds.....**

Welcome back to the first of our lectures for 2007-8. Our President has refreshed our approach to the lectures, and we also have a brand new CSAR logo

We have an excellent programme once more. Council decides who to invite, and I fill in around the edges. Needless to say, it is always a great relief when it finally goes to press!

Enjoy!

Best Regards

Richard Freeman, CSAR Organising Secretary

Coffee available, as usual, in the foyer outside the lecture theatre from ~7.00 p.m.

You will notice a change in my address; I no longer work for Sagentia, so I am organising your CSAR lectures from my home!

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