

CSAR

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CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY FOR THE APPLICATION OF
RESEARCH

'THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF LIFE'

Communication in nature, and a new view of the neuron

Brian J Ford CBIol FIBiol FLS
NESTA Fellow (and CSAR Member of Council)

Monday, 18th October 2005 7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Cambridge

Chair and Vote of Thanks: to be confirmed

About the Lecture:

Brian Ford writes:

“Are animals and plants so different from people? In this evening's talk we will find out about emotions and intelligence in animals, and the range of extraordinary senses in the world of plants. Most remarkable of all, tonight we will observe dexterity and decision-making in single cells. Can these findings explain how neurons function?

It may be that the current concepts of how the brain works are fundamentally flawed.”

About the speaker:

Brian is a member of CSAR council. He is former Fellow at the Open University and has been Fellow of Cardiff University since 1986. He is a best-selling author, and over 100 editions of his books have been published around the world. Among his own programmes have been 'Science Now' and 'Where are you Taking us' for radio, and 'Computer Challenge' and 'Food for Thought' on television. Brian has partnered Lady Antonia Frazer on 'Round Britain Quiz', and he lectures widely round the world. He has just returned from giving invited lectures at scientific conferences in Amsterdam and Milan.

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The Organising Secretary adds:

This is the first lecture of the 2004-2005 programme, and it is particularly appropriate that our very own Brian Ford opens our year by sharing with us some of his extraordinary insights into the nature of life on this earth! Brian is a polymath, and has (I am sure he will not object to me saying) a passion for microscopy. Indeed, I recall he gave us a very interesting lecture on the microscopes of Van Leeuwenhoek (see <http://www.sciences.demon.co.uk/wav-mics.htm>) a couple of years ago.

Mind you, knowing Brian, I suspect that his talk may not refer to microscopy at all!

Coffee and biscuits available, as usual, in the foyer from ~7.00 p.m.

Personal Note:

Unfortunately, I shall not be in attendance since I shall be recovering from surgery; I shall be in the Charing Cross hospital from the end of this month for surgery for prostate cancer. My surgeon rejoices in the name of Tim Christmas (a friend pointed out it could be worse – I could have got his father!)

Prospects are very good; he has a 99.3% cure rate.....

As Arnie Schwarzenegger would say**I'll be back!!**

Brian has very kindly agreed to look after the CSAR lectures in my absence.

Best

Richard Freeman
CSAR Organising Secretary