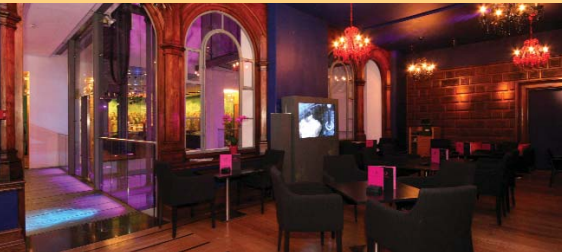


get involved

Becoming a Member of the Ri

has many benefits and is open to all with an interest in science. Not only will you have access to Members' only events, discounts on tickets and in the bar and restaurant, but you will join also a 200-year-old alumni network whose support is invaluable to our UK-wide science education programme, scientific research, and the exhibition and conservation of our rich history.

For more information visit www.rigb.org or call 020 7670 2919.

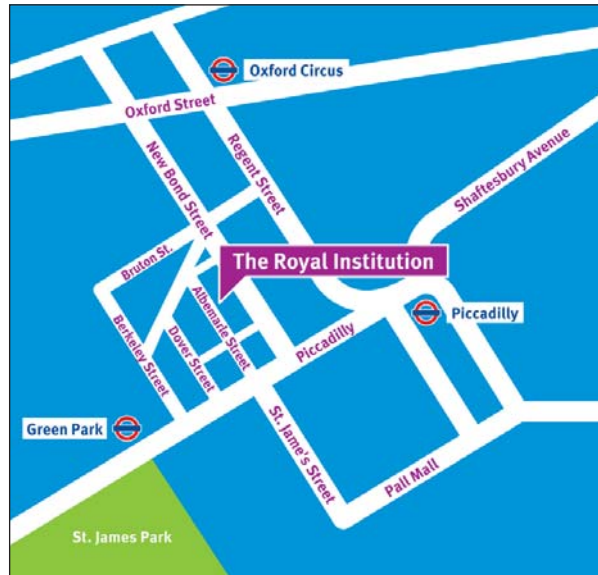


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of Great Britain



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Ticket booking information

Book online at www.rigb.org

or call +44 (0) 20 7409 2992

9.00am–6.00pm Monday to Friday

Opening times

Royal Institution open

9.00am–6.00pm Monday to Friday

Time & Space open

Bar: 9.00am–11.00pm

Restaurant: Lunch 12 noon–3.00pm

Monday to Friday

Front cover image: *Multi-limbed Pacific Tree Frog*, Brandon Ballengee

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Ri The Royal Institution
of Great Britain

What's on

january > april 2010



The case of the deviant toad

Art and ecology collide
in a new exhibition opening in March



The Royal Institution of Great Britain



The case of the deviant toad

Exhibition open runs 16–31 March
Monday to Friday, 9.00am–11.00pm

In association with The Arts Catalyst, discover the intriguing specimens, video works and startling images of malformed toads by the artist and ecological researcher Brandon Ballengée. Ballengée's artistic practice is immersed in the study and exchange of ideas around biodiversity and ecological change with a particular focus on global species decline.

Free admission



Faraday Exhibition

From the odds and ends that became the first electrical transformer to the tube that told us why the sky is blue, you can see the objects that Ri scientists built and used in some of the world's most famous experiments over the last 200 years. The highlight of the exhibition is Faraday's magnetic laboratory as it was in the 1850s.

Free admission and free eGuide.



Family Fun Days

Drop in 11.00am–4.00pm for hands-on science activities, exciting demonstrations and entertaining talks. These are ideal for 5–14 year olds, but are also fun for the whole family! Family Fun Days are on the first Saturday of each month and there is a different theme each time so check out www.rigb.org for the dates, latest information and programme. Each month there is a different theme so check out www.rigb.org for the latest information and programme.

Tickets £5 adults / £3 under 18. Faraday Members and infants free. Two free under 18 tickets for Ri Members.



Friday Evening Discourses

Started by Michael Faraday in 1825, these events showcase the very best in science. So fashionable were the discourses, that Albemarle Street was converted into the first one-way street in London due to the congestion caused by the carriages. It was during a Friday evening discourse in 1839 that Faraday first announced the existence of photography, and in 1903 that Pierre Curie presented Marie Curie's work on radium and left residual radiation...what world-changing research will be presented this year?

Discourses are open to Members and their guests.

january

Biologically moral?

Thursday 21 January 7.00pm–8.30pm
For centuries, moral philosophers have been arguing about the fundamental questions of ethics. Join the debate as new evidence on the neural basis of morality, and the role of emotion in moral judgement, are presented by Guy Kahane from the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics and the Oxford Centre for Neuroethics.
Tickets: £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

Event supported by



Quiz night

Monday 25 January 7.00pm
From the history of science, to the latest research, to subjects that have seemingly nothing scientific about them, test your knowledge against the best.
Time & Space bar at the Ri. Tickets: £2 per person entry, no need to book.

Friday Evening Discourse:

Nature, nurture or neither? A view from the genes

Friday 28 January 8.00pm–9.15pm
From alcoholism to religious belief, the most dangerous word in genetics, according to Steve Jones is the idea of a gene 'for' a particular attribute. In reality, DNA and way of life nearly always work together to determine our health, mood and - perhaps - even our willingness to take risks.
Free to Ri Full Members / £10 Associate Members / £15 guests

Inconceivable technology: the future of reproduction

Tuesday 2 February 7.00pm–8.30pm
Reproductive technologies have made a huge difference to both the opportunities and the rights to reproduce. In the future we may have the power to choose between existing traits and a whole menu of improvements. John Harris will address the science and ethics behind these possibilities.
Tickets £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

The music instinct

Tuesday 16 February 7.00pm–8.30pm
Science writer Philip Ball provides the first comprehensive, accessible survey of what is known – and what is still unknown – about how music works its magic, and why, as much as eating and sleeping, it seems indispensable to humanity.
Tickets £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

Maths education: does it add up?

Wednesday 17 February 7.00pm–8.30pm
Is maths too hard for most people? Or is it just taught badly in England? Jo Boaler will share some surprising research results to reveal the huge gap between the way maths is currently taught and the ways it should be. This event will also involve responses from leading figures in education, entertainment and politics.
Tickets £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

Cognitive enhancement

Monday 22 February 7.00pm–8.30pm
Cognitive enhancing drugs are currently used to treat a variety of brain illnesses, from Alzheimer's disease to schizophrenia. But what if these drugs became routinely used by students, or even school-age children? Barbara Sahakian discusses what the ethical implications are for society.
Tickets £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

Friday Evening Discourse:

Quest for the Holy Grail of bipolar disorder: better lithium

Friday 26 January 8.00pm–9.15pm
Grant Churchill is on a quest for the ultimate scientific discovery: to determine the therapeutic action of lithium. How does curiosity-driven science lead to unforeseen advances in applied science and what is the major role chance plays in successful research?
Free to Ri Full Members / £10 Associate Members / £15 guests

february

march

Little minds, big ideas

Monday 8 March 7.00pm–8.30pm
What can psychological research tell us about the mental worlds of babies and small children? Charles Fernyhough explores how the study of young children's minds can shed light on some profound ideas about what it means to be human.
Tickets: £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

The case of the deviant toad: preview and discussion

Monday 15 March 6.30pm–7.30pm
Accompanying the art exhibition, ecological researcher Brandon Ballengée will explore the theme of global species decline in a free-ranging discussion.
Tickets: free but must be booked in advance

The eerie silence: are we alone in the universe?

Tuesday 16 March 7.00pm–8.30pm
On the 50th anniversary of SETI – the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence – Paul Davies discusses one of the most intriguing questions in science: are we alone in the universe?
Tickets: £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

The miraculous disaster of immortality

Friday 19 March 7.00pm–8.30pm
Most babies born today are likely to live more than 100 years. Understanding why we age and die might enable us to achieve that ultimate goal – immortality. Colin Blakemore discusses what kind of existence eternal life would be.
Tickets: £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

Quiz night

Monday 22 March 7.00pm
From the history of science, to the latest research, to subjects that have seemingly nothing scientific about them, test your knowledge against the best in the Time & Space bar at the Ri.
Tickets: £2 per person entry, no need to book.

Friday Evening Discourse:

Great ideas of biology

Friday 26 March 8.00pm–9.15pm
Nobel prize winner Sir Paul Nurse presents the ideas that have shaped the study of biology, from gene theory and natural selection to cell chemistry.
Free to Ri Full Members / £10 Associate Members / £15 guests

Laughlab: Why do some jokes make men laugh and women groan?

Wednesday 31 March 7.00pm–8.30pm
Richard Wiseman explains the science of humour. How does our sense of humour changes throughout our lives, and what is the world's funniest joke?
Tickets: £8 / £6 / £4 Ri Members

The science of scent

Wednesday 21 April 7.00pm start
Will Andrews returns to continue his exploration of the world of the perfumer and the science behind the most evocative of the senses.
Event supported by *P&G prestige products*

Friday Evening Discourse:

Vis lucis, vis luminis: how optics shaped physics

Friday 30 April 8.00pm–9.15pm
Have optics paved the way for advances in physics? According to Ian Walmsley, in the past 400 years through enabling technology, such as the telescope, or by providing fundamental phenomena, optics have led to revolutionary new insights.
Free to Ri Full Members / £10 Associate Members / £15 guests

april