

Year in review 2016



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Science and its applications have an enormous impact on all our lives. To safeguard economic prosperity and social wellbeing it is crucial to have an informed and dynamic relationship between science and society that starts from an early age.

This is why a strong focus of what the Ri does today is to inspire and equip everyone with the confidence, desire and resources needed to build a lifelong interaction with science.

Our work therefore starts at an early age by engaging young people and their parents, carers and teachers. And it continues by creating opportunities for adults to engage in critical conversations about how science affects our lives.

This is why, for over 200 years, the Ri has brought the world's leading critical thinkers from business, academia and the cultural sector together with the public in our famous theatre. By embracing the latest digital technology we have created dynamic conversations that are now open to a truly global audience.

I am incredibly proud to acknowledge what our small and dedicated team of staff and volunteers have achieved. Together we have been able to provide transformational opportunities for young people, nurture and grow our public activities and share our incredible heritage with a wide audience.

I would also like to thank Her Majesty the Queen for her 64 years of service as our Royal Patron, and to welcome HRH The Prince of Wales as our new Royal Patron. We look forward to working with him in the near future.

We would not have reached such a pivotal point in our history without the commitment of our outgoing Chief Executive, Chris Rofe. Under his leadership the Ri has successfully achieved the repayment of our debt and provided us with a robust financial foundation. He has led us through a period of significant change and, with the help of the whole Ri community, has enabled our education programmes to go from strength to strength. I would like to thank Chris for his dedication and we wish him every success for the future.

As always we could not do what we do without our supporters. I am delighted to see how many individuals, companies and organisations share our ambitions for the future and place real value on the benefits of our diverse education and heritage activities. We are enormously grateful for such generosity and look forward to continuing to work with you to make a positive and lasting difference.

Richard Sykes

Sir Richard Sykes FRS
2010 – present

I have been privileged to work with a wonderful team of dedicated staff and trustees over the last eight years and to benefit from the enthusiasm and commitment of the Ri's thousands of engaged and loyal patrons, members, supporters and volunteers. All of whom provided extraordinary and invaluable input to help ensure the excellence of the Ri's education and heritage programmes.

I look forward to seeing the next chapter in the Ri's long history develop and I will continue to enjoy being part of the Ri community as a member and supporter.

Chris Rofe

Chris Rofe
Chief Executive, 2009–2017





CHRISTMAS LECTURES

For nearly 200 years, the CHRISTMAS LECTURES have captured the imagination and curiosity of generations of children by bringing cutting-edge science to life in a series of entertaining and inspiring shows.

Founded in 1825 with the support of Michael Faraday, one of the UK's greatest scientists and a pioneering advocate for the public engagement of science, the Lectures have been presented by many of the world's leading scientists including Richard Dawkins, Sir David Attenborough, Carl Sagan and Dame Nancy Rothwell.

Our aim with the Lectures is to encourage and support young people to observe, question and explore the world around them, and our approach uses daring demonstrations, the latest technology and hands-on participation to keep the audience spellbound.

Today, live theatre shows for 11–17 year olds and a television broadcast remain at the heart of the CHRISTMAS LECTURES, but we can now inspire many more millions of people in the UK and around the world through our creative digital content, online interaction, hands-on workshops, teaching resources, media engagement and international tours.

In 2016 we celebrated a milestone in television history by marking the 80th anniversary of the first ever television broadcast of the CHRISTMAS LECTURES.

“I’m excited that our celebration of energy explains how current cutting-edge research on clean energy technologies is founded on the Ri’s rich heritage of discovery.”

— Saiful Islam,
2016 Christmas Lecturer

“The CHRISTMAS Lectures have done so much to ignite an interest in science in so many.”

— Cassian Harrison,
Channel Editor, BBC Four

“All those eager, enthusiastic, engaged teenagers give me hope for the future.”

— @maureenksPELLER

“Thank you for creating sparks in the hearts and minds of children young and old”
— BBC Four viewer



'Supercharged: Fuelling the future' 2016 CHRISTMAS LECTURES

In this commemorative series, Saiful Islam, Professor of Materials Chemistry at the University of Bath, took us on a journey through scientific history focusing on 'energy'; recreating Michael Faraday's famous 19th century experiments in spectacular 21st century style and reliving classic demos from CHRISTMAS LECTURES past.

In the only reunion of its kind since the CHRISTMAS LECTURES began, Saiful was joined on-stage by 10 Christmas Lecturers past spanning 29 years of television history; Sir John Meurig Thomas (1987), Richard Dawkins (1991), Tony Ryan OBE (2002), Monica Grady CBE (2003), Hugh Montgomery (2007), Mark Miodownik (2010), Peter Wothers MBE (2012), Alison Woollard (2013), Danielle George MBE (2014) and Kevin Fong (2015).

Saiful also explored the powerhouse of the human body and ended the three-

part series by challenging the young audience to help solve one of today's biggest questions – how can we generate the energy our modern society needs and still protect our planet?

Thank you to Lloyd's Register Foundation for being the Major Supporter for our 2016 CHRISTMAS LECTURES broadcast and additional resources inspired by the Lectures for students and teachers.

The 2016 CHRISTMAS LECTURES were produced by Windfall Films Ltd for BBC Four.

"The Lloyd's Register Foundation is proud to be a major supporter of the Royal Institution's CHRISTMAS LECTURES in its special 80th anniversary year. The 2016 subject of energy is also dear to the heart of the Lloyd's Register Foundation. As a charity, we share complementary aims with the Ri to connect people with the world of science and inspiring the next generation. As a global charity we look forward to continuing to work with the Ri to take the Lectures abroad and maximising their impact internationally."
— **Professor Richard Clegg, Chief Executive, Lloyd's Register Foundation**

Celebrating 80 years of a television tradition

The CHRISTMAS LECTURES were first broadcast on the BBC on 22 December 1936, making them the world's oldest televised science series and the first programme ever to show scientific experiments.

The CHRISTMAS LECTURES have been broadcast annually since 1966 thanks to the efforts of Sir David Attenborough, the then controller of BBC2, and Sir Lawrence Bragg, the then Director of the Ri. But remarkably this tradition first began three decades earlier, as this Radio Times listing from 1936 proves:

"The Royal Institution lectures are a feature of the children's Christmas holidays. This year they are about ships. G.I. Taylor, F.R.S., is giving the series. This afternoon he will explain, with actual experiments, why ships roll in a rough sea."

The 15 minute-long recording of Christmas Lecturer Geoffrey Ingram Taylor was made at the BBC's studios at Alexandra Palace and broadcast just seven weeks after the opening ceremony of the BBC's fledgling television service.

Saiful Islam challenges Richard Dawkins to recreate his famous swinging cannonball demonstration from the 1991 CHRISTMAS LECTURES. [1]

G.I Taylor FRS exhibiting diving dress technology during his 1936 CHRISTMAS LECTURES on 'Ships' [2]

"Loving the Christmas Lectures, as ever leaving us amazed & excitedly discussing the wonder of #science."
— @janetfrance

"Watching your #xmaslectures, my 9-year-old boy told me he finally understood the difference between atoms and ions."
— @YounghaChang

1.7million
viewers on BBC Four





A perspective from behind-the-scenes

“One of our key messages we try to get across is that science isn’t finished. The Lecturer doesn’t know everything and there are many questions still puzzling us. Why would young people want to become scientists if we already knew all the answers?”

— Gail Cardew, Ri Professor of Science, Culture and Society

A Christmas Lecturer’s perspective

“My year as Christmas Lecturer was a rollercoaster of excitement, fear, fun and incredulity, in equal measures. Would I encourage other scientists to venture out of the lab? Yes. The impression that has stayed with me the most is people’s hunger for knowledge and their excitement when they make a new connection. Not just in relation to scientific ideas, but about the scientific process.

I strongly believe that science must be more strongly embedded in society, not ‘just’ as a crucial driver of economic competitiveness and improved healthcare, but also as an important cultural ambition; the pursuit of knowledge is a defining human activity.

We also need to inspire the next generation at a time when the stakes are very high. Why should they study particle physics or bird migration? Our passion as scientists is the answer and I would encourage everyone in our community to let that shine through.”

— Alison Woollard, 2013 Christmas Lecturer

In the 2013 CHRISTMAS LECTURES, Alison Woollard explored the frontiers of developmental biology in ‘Life Fantastic’ [1]



In celebration of the 80th anniversary since our first broadcast, we conducted an online survey to help record the lasting impact the Lectures have had on people’s lives.

The CHRISTMAS LECTURES are important to me because...

- They opened my eyes to the discipline of science and the opportunities for women within this largely male environment.
- They make me question how things work in the world and what is important.
- They allowed me to share the wonder of science with my children and learn together. The Lectures often led to us searching for books, visiting museums or attending events that broadened our understanding.

What do you think the CHRISTMAS LECTURES contribute to UK culture?

- They reiterate that science and technology are accessible to all regardless of background, age or gender.
- They spark debate.
- They demonstrate the central role that UK makes to science research world-wide.

Which demos are the most memorable for you?

- The ones where they get audience members to do them because you can imagine trying them at home.
- Eric Laithwaite’s magnetic levitation was magical and set me well on my way to career in engineering.
- A snippet of Attenborough’s 1973 series on the language of animals in which he plays the calls of songbirds and remarks in an eye-opening manner on their frequency and other characteristics. The elegance of nature depicted in this Lecture will stay with me for some time to come.
- The photographs shown in the 1977 Lecture started a lifelong fascination with the scale of the universe.
- How to transport the sense of touch and smell via a communication device in the 2014 Lectures! I imagined holding my aged parents’ hands and smelling my mother’s home cooking in Japan as I talked with them by Skype.

What would you like to say to the CHRISTMAS LECTURES team?

- I am in the final year of a Chemistry PhD, and I genuinely believe that the CHRISTMAS LECTURES sparked a passion for science at a very influential time in my development. There is so much to learn and the Lectures gave an insight in an inclusive, non-elitist manner.
- The ability to translate complex ideas and issues into plain language is a gift. Well done.
- Please don’t ever stop doing this, it is part of the spacetime fabric of this country.

Statistics and quotes from a December 2016 survey, 578 respondents

73%
watch with
their families

70%
said that the CHRISTMAS
LECTURES had a significant
impact on their attitude
towards science



1



3

International reach

To complement the television broadcast, the Ri again produced its annual multi-platform digital advent calendar with 24 pieces of original content being released daily throughout December.

The 2016 advent calendar brought to life the topic of energy by looking at the four laws of thermodynamics through experiments, short films, animations and even a song.

Aimed at 18–35 year olds, the content was released via a dedicated hub on the Ri website and shared on social media via YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo and Medium.

All the films were subtitled in English, and YouTube volunteers provided translations in German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

Such a diversity of languages and platforms enabled us to reach a global audience, engaging them with the broad topics of the Lectures.

CHRISTMAS LECTURES on tour

For more than 20 years, the CHRISTMAS LECTURES' team has travelled to Japan the summer after the original broadcast to repeat the live shows which are also televised on Japanese National TV through the support of Yomiuri Shimbun.

In 2012 the Lectures went to Singapore for the first time in partnership with the Singapore Science Centre, and the Lectures appeared on MediaCorp TV. We were delighted to repeat this tour in 2016.

*"Oh how wonderful!
An advent calendar
of scientific curiosities
from @ri_science"*
— Maria Popova on
Twitter, author of popular
blog brainpickings.org

*"Physics teachers: might
be nice to share these
short #Riadvent videos
on thermodynamics
with your students."*
— @alomshaha

*"How amazing that these
basic principles describe
so much, it's breathtaking."*
— YouTube viewer

YouTube
volunteers translated
our advent films
into Spanish,
Portuguese,
German and
Italian

In this animation about the first law of thermodynamics, chemist Andrea Sella uses Richard Feynman's classic analogy of an evolving negotiation over toy blocks between a mother and son to explain the conservation of energy. [1]

We collaborated with chemical engineer Valeska Ting from the University of Bristol to make four of our 2016 advent films. In one of her films, she uses a little hydrogen, a few balloons and a couple of makeshift rockets, to explain what the first law of thermodynamics is, and why it matters to our lives. [2 and 5]

Science troubadour Jonny Berliner contributed a catchy musical tribute to the first law of thermodynamics, and energy itself, to our advent calendar with his unique song 'Energy!' [3]

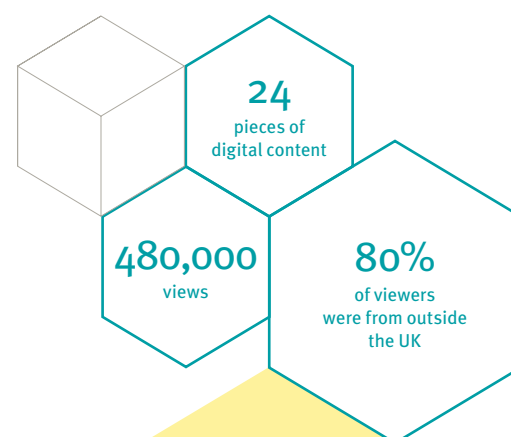
We teamed up with YouTuber Tom Scott to provide three simple ways to debunk persistent claims of perpetual motion, a popular but incorrect concept which violates the fundamental laws of our universe. [4]



4



5



2



Family learning

Research has shown that family involvement is vital to nurturing positive attitudes to science, which is why we have developed a strong focus on family activities. Our exciting events, immersive workshops and confidence-building online resources act as a catalyst for families to create an environment that encourages and guides a child's natural curiosity towards a lifelong appreciation of science.

Family Fun Days

Our Family Fun Days turn our historic London home into a giant laboratory, packed with hands-on experiments and thrilling demonstrations for children aged 6–12 and their families. Our 2016 events were; 'How to survive in space' in February inspired by the 2015 CHRISTMAS LECTURES, 'Imaginative inventions' in May, and 'Surprising senses' in October.

Our February event was attended by Xinhua TV agency who recorded a feature explaining the impact of our hands-on approach to engaging families with science, for the Chinese news channel CNC World.

A loyal and enthusiastic group of volunteers give their time to support our

Family Fun Days. Our thanks to students and researchers from the Royal Veterinary College who attended all 2016 events.

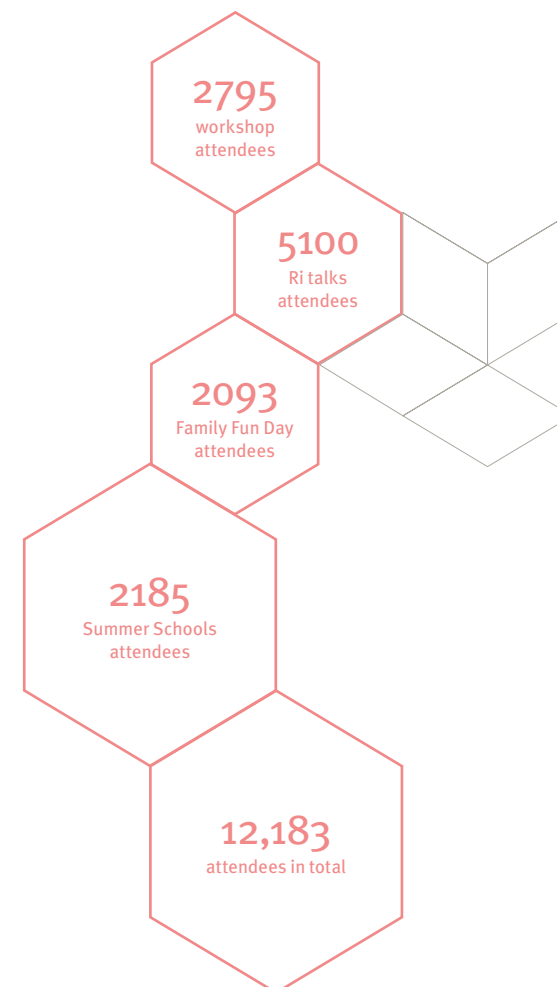
Family workshops and talks

In 2016, we expanded our family programme and delivered 114 events across the year.

These included 93 hands-on workshops inspired by our Ri Masterclasses in computer science, engineering and mathematics, 21 laboratory workshops in our L'Oréal Young Scientist Centre and 16 talks in our world-famous theatre.

Our family events take place during weekday evenings, over the weekends and during half-term and other school holidays to provide as much flexibility as possible for busy parents and carers.

"An understanding and appreciation of science is more important than it ever was... This Institution has a marvellous record of bringing the understanding of science to children."
— Sir David Attenborough
Ri Member and Christmas Lecturer



Ri Summer Schools

Our hugely popular and interactive Ri Summer Schools bring to life all areas of science, mathematics, computing and engineering, and are delivered by expert speakers from the worlds of academia, industry and education.

Workshops are tailored to different age groups from 7–18 and the topics focus on the real life applications of the subject, such as forensic science, crash-testing and coding.

In 2016 we delivered 95 Summer Schools. Our partner The Potential Trust provided grants to enable 23 young people to attend who would otherwise have been unable to afford to.

ExpeRimental

ExpeRimental is our series of short films that make it fun, easy and cheap to do science at home with children aged 4–10. All 20 of the experiments released to date are designed to encourage natural curiosity and support a child-led investigation of the world around them through observation, questioning and play.

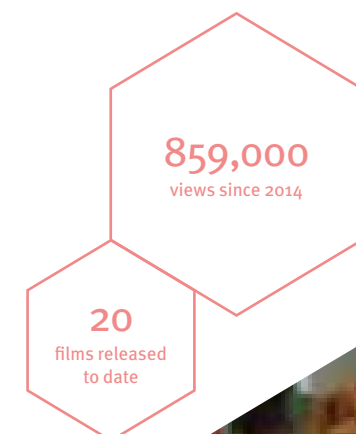
By sharing ExpeRimental films through the Ri website, YouTube and a dedicated Facebook page, we have reached a truly international audience.

In 2017, we will release a new set of 10 ExpeRimental films, including two created with students at a primary school in Tower Hamlets, thanks to the support of the British Psychological Society.

Viola makes a homemade lava lamp in our ExpeRimental chemistry series. [1]

"Fun, inspiring and thought-provoking. I also loved seeing ordinary people's kitchens full of all the stuff and clutter we have too! Makes it all seem realistic and achievable."
— Parent

Find out more about our events and resources for families at rigb.org/families



Public events

We believe the benefits, consequences and future directions of science must be shared with the wider public: there are questions that cannot be answered by scientists alone and a diversity of viewpoints is vital.

For over 200 years, the Royal Institution has brought together Nobel Laureates, cutting-edge researchers and critical thinkers from across industry, education, policy and the arts to discuss major issues facing society.

The most famous science lecture theatre in the world still hosts the very best of today's influential and intellectually stimulating conversations, and these are now shared with a global audience through the Ri Channel and YouTube.

Our events include our Discourses; short courses which allow a rich and deep exploration of complex subjects; multidisciplinary Ri Patron events; and a science-themed book club called Fiction Lab.

"I've really enjoyed chairing at the Ri and bringing original ideas to suggest for events. Its combination of illustrious history and the wondrous intimacy of its unique theatre makes it a very special place for debate. And it's especially satisfying to see the faces of younger first time visitors in the rows of seats, drawn by a particular event or talk, and then discovering its special atmosphere."
— **Samira Ahmed, BBC journalist**

"Michael Faraday has long been a hero of mine. Walking out into that theatre was a genuine thrill, and one of the highlights of my career. Whatever else happens, I can always say that I followed in his footsteps. The Ri is a beautiful space to lecture in, but it was also a great audience, they were warm and generous, and full of excellent questions. I was also happy to see such a diverse audience."
— **David Tong, theoretical physicist**

Ri talks

In 2016 we welcomed the return of four Christmas Lecturers past, Chris Bishop, Marcus Du Sautoy, Ian Stewart and Kevin Fong, in honour of the 80th anniversary since the Lectures first appeared on the BBC.

Our talks continued to bring science, society and culture together in compelling fashion with Dame Sally Davies, UK Chief Medical Officer, and Dame Julia Slingo, Chief Scientist at the Met Office, each exploring the real life implications of cutting-edge research on policy, whilst Man Booker Prize winning author Ian McEwan examined the concept of self and Fields Medal winner Cédric Villani delved into the history of mathematics.

Collaborations in 2016 included the JBS Haldane Lecture on evolutionary genetics by Aoife McLysaght delivered in partnership with the Genetics Society; our 'Operating at the boundaries' series supported by QuantumBlack; and a panel discussion with the 2016 Brain Prize winners Timothy Bliss, Graham Collingridge and Richard Morris was broadcast to millions via the popular BBC Radio 4 programme 'All in the Mind'.

Ri podcast

In autumn 2016, we launched our first podcast, continuing our long tradition of experimenting with new platforms for public science, expanding accessibility to our unique content, and broadening our global community.

In the first six months, a diverse mix of nine Ri Talks from recent years have been adapted as podcasts including 'The aliens are coming' with physicist

Jim Al-Khalili and comedian Ben Miller and 'My life in science', an interview with Christmas Lecturer past Richard Dawkins by fellow evolutionary biologist Alice Roberts.

80 events
in 2016

Oxford physicist Suzie Sheehy presents her Discourse 'Accelerators reimaged' in June 2016 [1]

"The one thing I will remember about this event is the amazing way in which the speaker was able to make the complex simple to understand. She showed great command and enthusiasm for her subject which was infectious. It almost made me want to leap up and become a geneticist!"
— **Attendee of Aoife McLysaght's JBS Haldane Lecture**

Subscribe via iTunes, SoundCloud or your podcast app of choice. Search for 'Ri Science Podcast'

17,341
downloads



***“You have planted the seed that will help create the next generation of scientists”
— Parent of a
Primary Mathematics
Masterclasses attendee***

Schools

Young people are the decision makers, citizens and scientists of the future. How science is viewed and valued by society in the future depends on the next generation’s imagination, curiosity and critical thinking.

This belief underpins all our national education programmes which begin at pre-school and stretch through to primary,

secondary, sixth form, university and beyond in order to foster a lifelong journey of curiosity-driven learning.

STEM enrichment grants

Thanks to The Clothworkers’ Foundation and the Causeway Foundation, we awarded grants to 85 UK schools in deprived areas. This support enabled teachers to provide their students with an interactive science experience

facilitated by trusted experts that would be impossible otherwise. Funded activities included the visit of a mobile planetarium, an opportunity for a reception class to watch chicks hatch, and a hands-on coding session.

Technology: a world of possibilities

In collaboration with EY, the Ri held a free conference in June for 200 young people from across our education programme, and those new to the Ri, to celebrate gender diversity in the technology sector. The day was aimed at inspiring students to continue their journey through science by sparking discussions, exchanging

ideas and highlighting women who have had a profound impact on their discipline. Our keynote speaker was engineer Abbie Huty from Airbus Defence and Space and our careers fair featured JP Morgan, IBM, EY Smart Future, Ada College, Kano and Brain Labs.

*“Most of our children never venture beyond our locality and opportunities to experience wildlife and nature are very limited. The chicks activity was chosen because we believed our children would be inspired to see a real life cycle in front of their eyes. We want to widen their views of the world around them and the value of caring for living things and each other”
— Reception teacher and STEM enrichment grant recipient, Leeds*

Science in schools

Science in Schools aims to excite and inspire a passion around science in young people by bringing live science experiments and demonstrations into schools and communities in every corner of the UK. Our specially trained, enthusiastic science presenters demonstrate the importance of science and its relevance to our daily lives to young people who might not think that science is for them.

The programme was created in 2015 in response to research which shows that young people are often turning away from pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects in their studies, lives or careers, and that there is a lower uptake of science subjects among young people from less affluent backgrounds*.

To help reverse this trend, our aim is to spark a lifelong interest in science from an early age, to support hands-on science participation in the classroom, and to encourage families to talk at home about science and its opportunities for young people.

Our programme

We deliver primary and secondary level school shows for audiences in the tens or hundreds, with teachers choosing between 'Explosive food' and 'Feel the power'. In spring 2017, we will launch a new show based on the 2016 CHRISTMAS LECTURES, thanks to support from Lloyd's Register Foundation.

Our community show 'Bringing Science to Life' provides a whistle-stop tour of key scientific discoveries made at the Royal Institution including live demonstrations of the experiments that led to their discovery.

Our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sessions equip teachers with the skills and confidence to stimulate curiosity and encourage inquiry-led learning through practical hands-on science.

Our partnerships

In 2016, we received support to deliver shows in disadvantaged areas in Newcastle thanks to the Shears Foundation and in Hertfordshire thanks to the John Apthorp charity. We also partnered with Essex County Council to deliver shows in this region.

*WISE, "Not for people like me?", November 2014



13,000
young people

121
shows

41
CPD sessions

66
schools

The Royal Institution

Feedback from teachers

Our shows have received fantastic feedback from teachers across the country. Here is just a snapshot of what they've told us.

"The students love seeing just how exciting science can be. We have built on our relationship with the Royal Institution over the last two years, and our participation has had an incredible impact on the standards of the science teaching and learning experience within the Academy."

"We have a small school, only one class group per year, and these shows are really able to bring a subject alive for the children, spark their interest (hopefully, for a career in the sciences), and make for more diverse educational experiences."

"The group loved your presenter, oscillating wildly between rapt and silent attention to enthusiastic cheering and volunteering; they left having been inspired and well educated."

"The children were agog! My personal favourite was when the experiments didn't work or did work a bit too enthusiastically. We're so used to boring, safe, predictable things that it was great to have a bit of the unknown."

An 'Explosive food' show presented by Dan Plane at the Ben Jonson Primary School in Tower Hamlets. [1, 2 and 3]

"It was fun because of the exploding jelly babies!"
— Nathaniel, age 9, Peterborough

To find out more and to book a show, visit rigb.org/education or email schools@ri.ac.uk





L'Oréal Young Scientist Centre

In 2016 the LYSC team delivered 153 workshops for schools and other groups from the UK and as far afield as Australia, Indonesia, Spain and Japan.

Our workshops last up to six hours and are carefully crafted to encourage scientific discovery and curiosity-driven learning. In 2016, we introduced two new workshops, bringing our total to 14.

One focuses on the retro science of pinhole photography and the other, supported by the UK Space Agency, uses a Mars Rover to explore programming and analytical chemistry.

Our reach

Our UK outreach activities took us to the Cheltenham Science Festival and the Butlin's holiday camps in Minehead and Bognor Regis. The UCLan & Ri Young Scientist Centre in Preston continues to grow, reaching

more than 4,500 young people since it opened in 2015. A highlight of our international outreach was our visit to Kazakhstan where we delivered science shows and workshops to 600 children.

Our impact

When asked how they felt about their experience, 66% of workshop attendees said it had changed their attitude

towards science in a positive or very positive way and 31% stated no change as they already liked science.

"For L'Oréal, science is our past, present and future. Our business is grounded in innovation and invention and we are committed to using our resources to build confidence in science for people of all ages, abilities, background and genders. The L'Oréal Young Scientist Centre at the Ri has been testament to our commitment and we are excited to see that young people across the country have had the opportunity to think more deeply about science through this team's activities with Butlin's Science Zones and the Cheltenham Festival."

— **Karina O'Gorman, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at L'Oréal UK & Ireland**

"It really lets you experience how things are in a science lab."

— **Muharak, age 14**

"This has confirmed my desire to become a scientist!"

— **Nishant, age 10**

Ri Masterclasses

Our Masterclass programme opens young people's eyes to the diversity of mathematics, engineering and computer science. Keen young people all over the UK meet regularly on Saturday mornings to solve problems with top experts in academia and industry. Feedback from parents and teachers tells us that this programme increases the confidence of young people and encourages them to take on more learning opportunities in these important subject areas.

This national programme of Masterclasses, stretching from Jersey to Aberdeen, draws on the support and enthusiasm of a vast and diverse network of volunteers and supporters encompassing parents, teachers, researchers, industry professionals, university students and funders.

In 2016, our programme grew to 157 series across the country, with priority for expansion being placed on regions with high levels of deprivation.

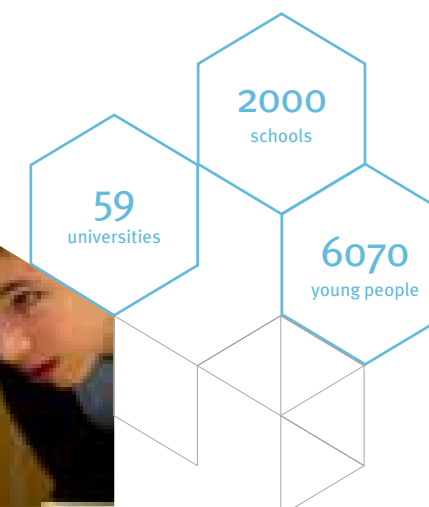
This included nine new series of Primary Mathematics Masterclasses launching across Southwark, Greenwich, Lewisham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets. A secondary Mathematics Masterclasses collaboration with Open University, supported by the Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation, brought mathematical elements of robotics to deprived areas of London.

Young people learning how to make their own speaker as part of an Engineering Masterclass. [1]

"I really enjoyed the Masterclass topics we studied as well as meeting other people my age who are interested in mathematics. I go to a small school and am the only person doing further maths, so there is never anyone to talk to about random mathematical things with at school."

"I am now certain I will apply for maths at university. I have a general curiosity about how and why things work, be it a formula or geometry or planets, so I will never stop learning new things until I have learnt everything there is to know about everything!"

— **Izzy, age 17**



Digital engagement

The Royal Institution has always been at the leading edge of using the latest technology to communicate science to the public. Two centuries ago, this was through publishing lectures in journals and we own audio recordings on wax cylinders dating back almost a hundred years. Today, digital technology is transforming how people of all ages and backgrounds communicate.

We are embracing this fast-paced, ever evolving medium and experimenting with it to bring science to life in new and surprising ways. We continue to embed it across everything we do in order to open up our work to a truly global audience.

Highlights of 2016

It is important for us to collaborate with likeminded individuals from all sectors. In 2016 this included the YouTube star Tom Scott, songwriter Jonny Berliner, and BBC science commentators Helen Czerski and Hannah Fry.

We want to reach out to people on platforms they already visit to reach people who may not consider science as an area of primary interest or relevance. In 2016, we experimented with video on Facebook,

Our ambition is to build on our growing reputation as a digital leader through an expert-led approach of in-depth research, analysis, collaboration and experimentation.

telling heritage stories and teaching science, achieving 217,000 views.

Ri films were featured on news sites the Independent and MailOnline; debated on forums such as Reddit; highlighted as a staff pick on Vimeo and shared on cultural and family sites including Gizmodo, Aeon and The Kids Should See This.

YouTube volunteers have now translated our videos into 17 languages, 76 times.

“This channel got me interested in things I never imagined I would care about.”
— YouTube viewer

“It’s like the TV station I’ve always wanted to exist”
— YouTube viewer

Case study

In 2016 we collaborated with the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and physicist Suzie Sheehy to explore the wide world of particle accelerators in a film series: ‘Accelerators for humanity.’

Our shared aims were to increase public awareness of particle accelerator research and its wider applications among the general public, help the accelerator research community showcase their work, and stimulate young people’s interest and curiosity in particle accelerators and a desire to learn about them.

The project consisted of nine videos released on YouTube and the Ri Channel; including recordings of a Discourse and a panel debate held in front of a live audience in the Ri’s theatre, an animation, and four short films.

The films received fantastic feedback from viewers, 53% of whom categorised themselves as having only a general interest in science and 60% of whom were aged 18–35. The films were shared beyond Ri platforms on sites such as Popular Mechanics, Engadget, Nerdist, BoingBoing and Futurism.

An event aimed to share learning from the project within the particle accelerator community was held at Oxford Physics and attended by 30 industry professionals. A project summary and resources have been accepted to the 8th International Particle Accelerator Conference 2017 (IPAC), the biggest international conference in the accelerator field, taking place in May 2017 in Denmark.

16,476
views on
Facebook

178,362
views on YouTube
and the Ri Channel

One 2016 animation, voiced by Helen Czerski, told the story of the cartographer Marie Tharp whose maps revealed the oceans’ hidden depths.^[1]

“The two-way engagement with the audience in live events and through YouTube has brought up some great questions that have helped me think about certain aspects of my research and how I explain it to various audiences.”
— Suzie Sheehy

“The Ri has done an exceptional job producing these entertaining films highlighting the impact of particle accelerators on our everyday lives”
— Elizabeth Cunningham, STFC Particle and Nuclear Physics Outreach Officer

“I used to think accelerators are just the tools for understanding quantum mechanics, cosmology etc. But what I came to know is that they have medical research applications, if you add that there are a lot of real life benefits for people”
— YouTube viewer

*Stats as of 21 February 2017

444

films released
to date

250,000

YouTube subscribers
to date



Our heritage

Bragg film archive

In 2016 we gave a new lease of life to previously unseen footage associated with Sir William Henry Bragg and Sir William Lawrence Bragg, a father and son team forever linked with the history of the Ri, with the launch of an online film collection.

The films reveal the Nobel Prize winning pair's role in the development of the field of X-ray crystallography, and their passion for sharing the wonders of science with the younger generation. William and Lawrence were Directors of the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory over different periods, and keen advocates for science communication, expanding the Ri's educational activities and founding our first schools' lecture programme.

Highlights of the collection include a wonderful insight into Lawrence Bragg's experimentation with bubble models and soap films,

and a moving glimpse into his personal life as he interacts with his grandchildren in the outtake snippets of '50 Years a Winner'.

Originally recorded on 16mm reels, these films have now been digitised and shared online via the Ri Channel and YouTube for everyone anywhere in the world to enjoy.

The digitisation of the original film canisters has saved them from deterioration, meaning they can again serve the aim for which they were created: to impart the spirit of scientific questioning and understanding.

Michael Faraday (1791–1867) is one of the most significant figures of British history, having transformed our understanding of the world with the discoveries he made in the basement laboratory of the Royal Institution. Coming from a humble background, Faraday was a leading advocate for public science education and our supporters make it possible for us to continue his legacy today. [1]

Find out more about the Ri's history at rigb.org/our-history

7500
copies of 13 Journeys
through Space and
Time sold

In 2016 our unique collection of Michael Faraday's original laboratory notebooks in which he charts some of the most important physical and chemical discoveries made during the 19th century, were inscribed on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register.

The Royal Institution holds a shelf mile of archive boxes containing the working papers of the many Ri natural philosophers and scientists whose discoveries helped shape the modern world, including Humphry Davy, Michael Faraday, John Tyndall, James Dewar, George Porter and more.

Our archives received formal recognition when the 10 volumes of Faraday's laboratory notebooks were inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World register of internationally significant

documents in June 2016. This gives them the same status as Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, Dorothy Wordsworth's diary and the Wedgwood archive, and are among only a few inscribed documents dealing with science and engineering.

Faraday's notes record his experiments and developing theoretical ideas from 1820 until 1862 including the formulation of the field theory of electro-magnetism, that cornerstone of modern physics.

13 Journeys through Space and Time

In 2016 we published a literary exploration of 13 of the most captivating CHRISTMAS LECTURES on space and time.

Packed full of unique Ri archive content such as handwritten letters, photographs and transcripts, the book explores what we thought we knew then and what

has been discovered since. The book is published by Michael O'Mara Books and written by Colin Stuart, with a foreword from British ESA astronaut Tim Peake.

"The wide diffusion of knowledge about science is so important that the art of doing so is well worth learning!"
— Sir Lawrence Bragg

72
unseen
archive films



Science at home

Christmas Lecturer Danielle George presented school and family shows in Edinburgh inspired by the 2014 series 'How to hack your home' thanks to the Royal Academy of Engineering, with more shows in Salford and Cardiff in 2017.

Our L'Oréal Young Scientist Centre team presented hands-on science workshops for 3,500 young people at Butlin's holiday camps in Bognor Regis and Minehead, and hosted workshops in London for groups from Suffolk, Isle of Man and County Durham.

Our Ri Masterclasses in computer science, engineering and mathematics consist of 157 series running across the country which are supported by 59 UK universities.

We delivered 121 Science in Schools shows nationwide and our STEM enrichment grants enabled 35 UK schools in disadvantaged areas to provide an expert-led hands-on science activity.

People travelled to our public events in London from as far away as Glasgow, Liverpool, Belfast and Penzance.

121

Science in Schools shows nationwide

For
66
schools

85

STEM enrichment grants to disadvantaged schools



Science abroad

The 2015 CHRISTMAS LECTURES 'How to survive in space' travelled to Japan and Singapore for live events for schoolchildren and a national television broadcast, thanks to Yoimuri Shimbun and the Singapore Science Centre.

The L'Oréal Young Scientist Centre team presented science shows to 600 young people in Kazakhstan and hosted workshops in London for groups from Australia, Indonesia, Japan and Spain.

We partnered with the Swedish Embassy to present an event with Nobel Prize winner Tomas Lindahl, and other international speakers in our theatre included Nobel Prize winner Art McDonald from Canada, mathematician Cédric Villani from France, NASA astronaut Mike Massimino and physicist Sean Carroll from the USA, geneticist Aoife McLysaght from the Republic of Ireland, and popular science communicator Dr Karl from Australia.

Ri staff continued to share their expertise and learning with peers. Professor of Science, Culture and Society Gail Cardew held advisory roles for the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) in Toulouse, Sciencesquared in Brussels and the Gothenburg Science Festival. Public Programme Manager Martin Davies spoke with science educators in Colombia thanks to the British Council and Professor of the History of Science Frank James presented at leading academic conferences in Canada, Brazil and Czech Republic.

Our YouTube audience covers 222 countries and territories and our content has been translated into 17 languages, 76 times.

Ri films have been translated into
17
languages

222
countries and territories reached through YouTube

Our international reach

▼ Education and heritage outreach

- Australia
- Belgium
- Canada
- Colombia
- Czech Republic
- France
- Indonesia
- Kazakhstan
- Japan
- Republic of Ireland
- Singapore
- Spain
- Sweden
- UK
- USA

■ Ri Members

- Australia
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Republic of Ireland
- India
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Japan
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Qatar
- Spain
- South Africa
- Turkey
- UK
- USA

Our 2016 YouTube audience

Countries	Views	Proportion
United States	7,656,760	35%
United Kingdom	2,913,909	13%
Canada	1,165,393	5.3%
Germany	844,636	3.9%
Australia	831,674	3.8%
India	631,604	2.9%
Netherlands	477,041	2.2%
Sweden	352,692	1.6%
Poland	343,644	1.6%
Brazil	307,717	1.4%

Our Royal Patron

Thank you to Her Majesty The Queen for 64 glorious years as the Royal Institution's Royal Patron.

Ever since 1799, when the Royal Institution was founded, the British monarch has been our Royal Patron. HM The Queen took on this role in 1952 and in 2016, after 64 years of dedicated support, she has decided to pass the role on to HRH The Prince of Wales as she reduces her commitments.

The Queen was the first reigning monarch to visit the Ri when she officially opened the new Michael Faraday Museum in 1973. As Princess she had already visited to attend a Discourse in 1950 and would later visit three more times: in 1988 as part of the celebrations to mark the 175th anniversary of the Royal Philharmonic Society, in 1999 as part of the events to mark the bicentenary of the Royal Institution's founding and in 2008 to open the newly refurbished building.

Some of The Queen's ancestors, notably the Prince Consort and his son the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII), also took an active interest in the Ri, with both serving as Vice-Patrons. The Prince Consort brought his two older sons to attend Michael Faraday's CHRISTMAS LECTURES in 1855 which was famously painted by Alexander Blaikley and used on the £20 Faraday note issued by the Bank of England in the 1990s.

The Ri community would like to thank The Queen for her valuable support and enthusiasm given over so many years, and we look forward to working with our new Royal Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales, to share the wonders of science with even more people around the world.

Alexander Blaikley's lithograph of Michael Faraday lecturing before the Prince Consort, Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred at an 1855 Christmas Lecture. [1]

HM The Queen using Faraday's induction ring to officially open the Michael Faraday Museum in 1972. [2]

Our community

Ri Members

Ri Members have been at the heart of the Ri since 1810 and we are proud that membership has always been open to all. Their financial support, advocacy for our work and personal passion for sharing the wonders of science are vital in helping us deliver our mission.

Today, our community is made up of 5 000 Ri Members from the UK and beyond. Our youngest member is five years old, our oldest is 96 years old and our longest standing member has supported us for 60 years.

In 2016, we were proud to partner with a diverse range of science and cultural organisations to help feed our members' fascination with the world around them.

These included discounts to the Science Museum's 'Cosmonauts' exhibition in January 2016 following the 2015 CHRISTMAS LECTURES 'How to survive in space'; the live New Scientist festival in September which featured many popular Ri speakers; and the Royal Court's thought-provoking play 'The Children' at the end of the year which explored a post-nuclear world.

"I came to some Christmas Lectures as a child and watched most of the rest on TV. I'm so glad I reconnected with the Ri fifteen years ago because it has provided some of the most interesting, engaging and thought-provoking events I have been to. It's a real thrill to sit in the same theatre where Faraday gave his talks and listen to world experts discuss their work. I have come on my own, with my wife, with friends and with my children, now a software engineer and an undergraduate physicist. I think the Ri played a role in helping them discover the excitement of science and technology."

— Ri Member

"I recommend the Ri to everyone irrespective of their social status, professional discipline or anything else."

— Ri Member

To find out more about Ri Membership please visit rigb.org/join or contact our Membership team on 020 7491 6588 or membership@ri.ac.uk.

Source for all data: 2016/17 online survey of Ri Members (18+)

Ri Members describe the Ri as knowledgeable inspiring, trustworthy & entertaining

87% would recommend us to others

77% see themselves as Ri Members in five years' time



Our supporters

Our supporters form a group of our close advocates who help us inspire people to think more deeply about the wonders and applications of science. They provide a vital source of income that supports a whole range of core activities across the Ri.

This vibrant community is made up of individuals, companies and organisations from a diverse range of backgrounds including business, academia and culture.

In return for their generosity, our supporters receive access to exclusive events; behind-the-scenes tours; and the opportunity to attend our annual Faraday Dinner with eminent speakers.

2016 CHRISTMAS LECTURES

Thank you to our 2016 CHRISTMAS LECTURES major supporter Lloyd's Register Foundation and our community

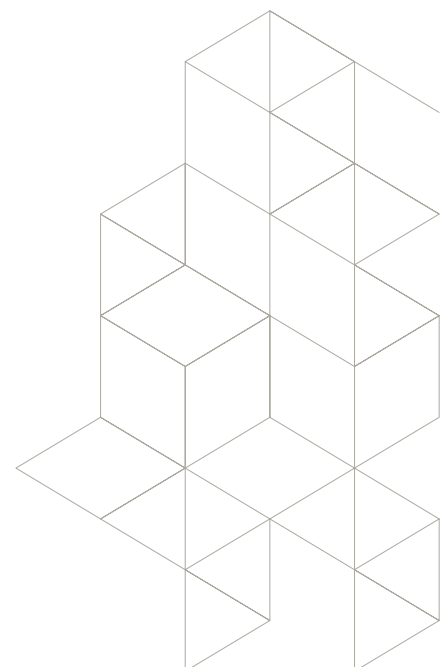
With their support we provide high quality public science events to thousands of people each year; are able to extend the reach of the CHRISTMAS LECTURES to many more schools and families and grow our digital and outreach programmes to ensure every young person has the opportunity to experience a positive interaction with science.

of supporters Johnson Matthey, Schlumberger, University of Bath and EPSRC for their generosity.

Saiful Islam from the University of Bath presents the explosive 2016 CHRISTMAS LECTURES 'Supercharged: Fuelling the future' on BBC Four. [1]

Ri Mathematics Masterclass students measuring distances on globes to investigate spherical geometry and learn about its application in the real world, such as navigation. [2]

Find out more about supporting the Ri at rigb.org/support



Here two of our supporters explain why they chose to support the Royal Institution.

'The CHRISTMAS LECTURES have inspired generations of children at precisely the right moment in their lives. I avidly watched them when I was young and many scientists have told me that they were pivotal in the direction they chose. The excellent 2016 CHRISTMAS LECTURES have clearly inspired another generation.'
— **Simon Bittleston, Vice-President of Research, Schlumberger**

'The Company of Actuaries Charitable Trust (CACT) is delighted to support the Ri Mathematics Masterclasses which have inspired a number of actuaries to pursue mathematical careers. Our three year partnership from 2014 to 2017 aims to double the reach of our Ri Mathematics Masterclasses for talented upper secondary school students in London from 400 to 800 young people and to provide both funding and the professional skills and personal enthusiasm of volunteers from the Company to help achieve this goal. We very much hope that, by supporting more Ri Mathematics Masterclasses for secondary school children, we will fire enthusiasm in the next generation of actuaries.'
— **Sally Bridgeland, Master Actuary 2016–2017**



Ri Patrons

Ri Patrons are a community of loyal supporters who value a deeper connection with science. Through their generosity we are able to continue in our work connecting people with science through a range of different media and activities. From our annual BBC broadcast of the CHRISTMAS LECTURES to our schools and community outreach programmes, the Ri has been inspiring people, young and old, for over 200 years, and with your help we can continue to do so.

From just £350 a year you can deepen your relationship with the Ri and receive a wide range of rewarding benefits. This includes access to our exclusive Ri Patron event series where you will hear industry leaders,

world-class researchers and exciting innovators discuss a range of disciplines from the engineering secrets behind Crossrail and the cognitive neuroscience of music, to forensic fingerprinting and machine intelligence.

Did you know?

The Royal Institution was founded in 1799 by 58 individuals who were united by a desire to 'diffuse knowledge for the common purposes of life' and we continue to be guided by this principle today.

"I was extremely honoured to speak in such an illustrious venue, being aware of its strong historical connection with the foundations of science, and feeling that I was somehow also involved and adding to that legacy in a minuscule fashion."

— **Dr Tristan Fletcher, Managing Director at Invinio, Head of Machine Learning and Financial Engineering at Thought Machine and 2016 Ri Patron event speaker**

Your impact

Here are just a few examples of the positive impact your support is enabling.

"After a year of incredibly hard work and with thanks to the dedication and resolve of our teaching staff to ensure science became established as a core subject; we were awarded the Gold Primary Science Quality Mark. A large part of our success was the Royal Institution visit which inspired teachers, children and parents to love science. We had overwhelming support from our parents, a mainly Pakistani heritage community. 130 children and parents returned to school to attend the Ri's science community show. To put this in perspective, only 13 parents in total attended the end of year productions the same year."

— **Headteacher, Peterborough**

"[Your Science in Schools presenter] was absolutely amazing. His presentation skills were second to none and he had such a natural way with our children. He was happy to sit with our children at lunch time and answered all of their science questions. This made a big difference to us and our children have been raving about the event for the last two days which isn't the response we usually get from children with autism spectrum disorder."

— **Teacher from a school for children with speech, language and communication needs, Kent**

"My daughter has really enjoyed the opportunity of exploring maths away from the school curriculum. Meeting and working with older students and being introduced to university facilities and surroundings has been very worthwhile. She loved the session on the relationship between maths and music. At her next violin lesson she discussed it with her violin teacher and I feel it opened a door into a new world for her"

— **Parent of a Secondary Mathematics Masterclass attendee, Liverpool**

To find out more please contact patrons@ri.ac.uk or visit rigb.org/join



Thank you

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our Trustees, donors, corporate supporters, patrons, members, volunteers and visitors. As an independent charity we rely on your support to provide a platform for the public and young people to engage with science.

We are extremely grateful and look forward to continuing to inspire a love of science with you.

Major Supporters

Causeway Technologies
Lloyd's Register Foundation
L'Oreal UK & Ireland
The Clothworkers' Foundation

Supporters

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A G Manly Charitable Trust
Aberbrothock Skea Trust
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The Brian Mitchell Charitable Settlement
The Shears Foundation
The Wixamtree Trust
UIN Education Community
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University of Bath

Ri Patrons

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Lawrence Staden
Robert Winston

Thank you to our in-kind supporters who provide us with valuable support on a variety of projects and to all of our donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Donate

You can make a donation to the Royal Institution online through our JustGiving page or by sending in a cheque payable to 'The Royal Institution'.

Become an Ri Patron

Deepen your engagement with the Ri and join a group of philanthropic individuals who help open minds to science. There are four levels of patronage starting at £350.

Help us open minds to science

The Royal Institution is an independent charity and it is only with the help of our generous patrons, supporters and members that we can continue to open minds to science. We have reached a significant point in our history as we seek to extend our reach on the national and international stage. But with no government funding, we rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters to help fund all that we do.

If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved, please contact the development team at development@ri.ac.uk or visit rigb.org/support

Become an Ri Member

Join a community of like-minded people who share a curiosity and passion for science and enjoy a range of annual benefits. Membership starts at £29 for children and £75 for adults

Support a project

The Ri has a range of educational programmes for young people including the CHRISTMAS LECTURES, explosive science shows for schools and a national programme of Ri Masterclasses in mathematics, engineering and computer science for highly talented students.

Leave a legacy

The Ri welcomes support from generous individuals. By leaving a legacy to the Ri you will help us plan for the future and support our innovative education programmes for years to come.

Corporate support

There has never been a more exciting time for companies to be associated with the Ri, either through corporate membership or in partnership with the Ri's wide-ranging programmes and innovative education and outreach activities. Whether you are looking to enhance your profile, reach new audiences, or motivate your employees, we welcome the opportunity to discuss how your company can benefit from a partnership with us.

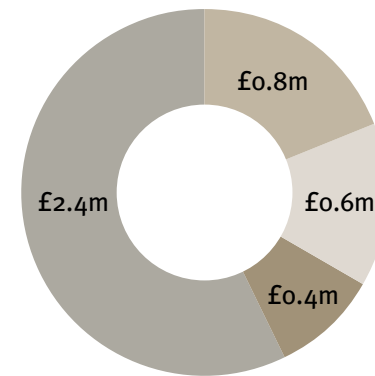
Our finances

The Royal Institution reaches a diverse audience of millions of people all over the world every year. We continue to deliver high level of charitable impact through the generous support of our members and donors, together with the dedication and commitment of our staff and trustees.

In the 2015–16 financial year we generated £2.4m in trading income and £1.8m in voluntary income through fundraising, membership and event income. We have achieved a surplus of £0.1m on unrestricted funds compared to a £0.2m shortfall in the previous year. In addition, after the receipt in of a £1.5m lease premium and £974,000 from a sale of non-core assets, the Ri fully repaid its debt in January 2016.

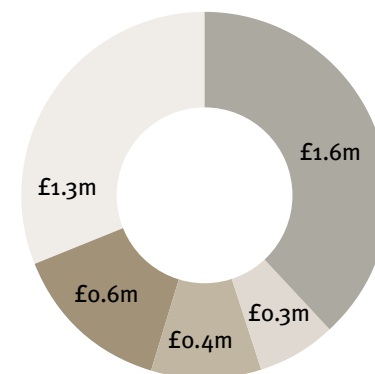
We plan to reach a break even result again in 2016–17 and our cash reserves are robust with £1.2m at 31 December 2016. This places the Ri in a strong position from which to focus on the long-term growth of our income streams and make an even greater impact through our charitable activities.

Full audited accounts are available to download from the Ri and Charity Commission's websites.



How we fund our work
Total income 2015–16: £4.2m

- Fundraising
- Event income
- Membership
- Trading



How we spend our money
Total expenditure 2015–16: £4.2m

- Education programme
- CHRISTMAS LECTURES
- Heritage
- Public events
- Trading

Data for year ending
30 September 2016.

Our governance

The Royal Institution was founded in 1799 and received its Royal Charter on 13 January, 1800. It is an independent Royal Charter Charity and is governed by its byelaws and governing documents.

The Trustees number eleven in total, nine elected by the membership of the Ri and two appointed by the Board. The Trustees ensure the Ri carries out its charitable purposes for the public benefit and complies with its governing documents. They have overall responsibility for managing the business of the institution; setting

strategic direction and objectives; safeguarding the institution's assets; overseeing all significant capital expenditure; and establishing and maintaining relevant policies. The Board meets a minimum of four times a year and is supported by the Audit Committee, Finance Committee and Nominations Committee.

Royal Patron

HM The Queen
(1952–2016)
HRH The Prince of Wales
(2016–current)

President

HRH The Duke of Kent

Honorary Vice President

Sir John Ritblat

Trustees

Sir Richard Sykes, Chair
Dr Fergus Boyd
Prof Chris Bishop
(retired May 2016)
Prof Julia Buckingham
(retired May 2016)
Hugh Harper

Lord Julian Hunt
Dr Martin Knight
Prof Sir Peter Knight
Sarika Patel
Geoff Potter
Louise Terry
Prof Chris Toumazou
Lord Robert Winston

Senior Management Team

Chris Rofe
Chief Executive
Prof Gail Cardew
Director of Science and Education
Michael de Crespigny
Director of Finance
Claire Gardner
Director of Operations

Positions as of 31 December 2016

Please visit our website for full details of our governance
rigb.org/about/organisation

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number 227938



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