



c/o Scientific Generics Limited
Harston Mill
Harston
Cambridge CB2 5GG
Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 875200
Facsimile: +44 (0) 1223 875201
(Organising Secretary's Home Number: 01799 525 948)
email: rfreeman@genericsgroup.com
CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY FOR THE APPLICATION OF
RESEARCH

Global Warming – facts, fictions and politics

Professor Sir John Mason, FRS
Imperial College, London

Monday 28th October, 2002: **7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m**
The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Cambridge

Chair: Professor Sir Sam Edwards FRS, President of the CSAR

Vote of Thanks: Professor Tony Kelly, CBE, FREng, FRS, CSAR Council member

Professor Sir John Mason writes:

This lecture will present some of the evidence for global warming during recent decades. There follows a brief description of the very complex computer models of the global climate system used to simulate present and past climates. They are also used to predict changes that may occur during this century, caused by man-made emissions of greenhouse gasses, particularly carbon dioxide.

Possible consequences of these changes will be discussed, together with a critical assessment of the scope for mitigating and adapting to them.

About the Speaker

Sir John graduated from the University of London in Physics, and then became a lecturer in meteorology at Imperial College. His work on cloud physics led to a D.Sc., and his appointment to a personal chair on the subject.

He was elected a Fellow to the Royal Society, and became Director-General of the Meteorological Office. Upon retirement, he became a senior advisor to Imperial College on environmental research, and directed a six year Anglo-Scandinavian project on acid rain.

He was President of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology until 1995, and then its (first) Chancellor.

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Dr Richard Freeman FRSA
(*Scientific Generics Limited*)

About the Subject (Organising Secretary's notes)

Global warming is about as topical as you can get. As I write this, my roses are making their third foray into flowering, and I ponder whether a soupçon of solar heating mightn't just meet all my needs for winter, allowing me to turn the gas off permanently!

A while ago, we had an excellent talk by Peter Wadhams on the reducing thickness of the polar ice-cap. I gave it the trivial title of '**Cambridge by the Sea?**'

This talk will be much more – well – *global*. Facts, Fictions and Politics is about the size of it!

AUTUMN COLOURS

This year's Autumn Colours visit will be to Wandlebury, and will take place on the morning of Saturday 26th October – the Saturday before our first lecture.

The tour will be hosted by the former warden of Wandlebury for 25 years, Bill Clark. Hopefully (from the way the trees are looking) we really shall get to see some properly autumnal trees this time!

THE CSAR YEAR

Once again, I think we have a very good programme. Many thanks to the our Members of Council who helped me put it together. Please do not forget that we are very willing to receive suggestions from our members. If you have attended a lecture which you found particularly good, or found through the media a lecture topic which seemed particularly relevant, or a speaker who was exceptionally good, do let me know!

We are staying with a **start time** the time of **7.30pm** for our lectures. It seems that this earlier start is broadly (but by no means universally) favoured. Although this earlier start (compared to our traditional start time of 8.30 p.m.) has some problems, the benefits of getting finished earlier are significant, not least for the lecturer.

We are also actively encouraging **younger scientists, engineers** and the like to join our audience. Again, we seem to be having some success. We now offer **free** membership to postgraduate and postdoctoral scientists whilst they are continuing their studies.

See you all on Monday 28th I hope; and doubtless, some of you on Saturday 26th for the Wandlebury visit!

Best regards

Dr Richard Freeman
Scientific Generics
Harston Mill
Harston
Cambridge CB2 5GG

Email: richard.freeman@genericsgroup.com (note my modernised email and post code!)