

# 350th

## Oxford and the Royal Society

A programme of  
events celebrating  
the Royal Society's  
350th anniversary in 2010



MUSEUM *of the*  
HISTORY *of*  
SCIENCE

[www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/royalsociety](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/royalsociety)

# Oxford

and the Royal Society

**A programme of events for the Royal Society's 350th anniversary in 2010**

There are two reasons for the Museum of the History of Science to explore the origins of the Royal Society in the 17th century, in addition to the Society's general importance for science. First, the foundation of the Society in 1660 owed much to the group of experimental philosophers in Oxford in the 1650s, led by the Warden of Wadham College, John Wilkins. Second, the building occupied by the Museum (the 'Old Ashmolean') opened in 1683 as a home for the new experimental learning in Oxford, with its laboratory, museum, spaces for experimental demonstration and dissection and its accommodation for the Oxford Philosophical Society. It is the only surviving building from the influential movement to reform natural knowledge in the 17th century, which also created the Royal Society.

## Public Lectures

**Dr William Poole**

**(New College, University of Oxford)**

'Oxford and the Royal Society in the Seventeenth Century'

**Tuesday 9 March, 7pm**

**Professor Michael Hunter,**

**FBA (Birkbeck College, University of London)**

'The Great Experiment: the Early Evolution of the Royal Society'

**Tuesday 18 May, 7pm**

**Dr Anna Marie Roos (History Faculty, University of Oxford)**

'The Oxford Philosophical Society and the Royal Society: a meeting of minds?'

**Tuesday 26 October, 7pm**

## Special Events

**Words and Voices**

**Saturday 18 September, 2 to 5pm**

Although the Royal Society adopted the motto 'nullius in verba' ('not by words' or 'take no-one's word'), words are the main record we have of its early activities, arguments and communications. A programme of activities will present Oxford fellows of the Society, including John Wilkins, Christopher Wren, Robert Boyle and Robert Hooke, through their own words.

## Family Friendly Activities

**Making Micrographia**

A family friendly drop in

**Thursday 18 February**

**Friday 19 February**

**Saturday 17 April**

**Basement Gallery, 12 noon to 4pm**

Use lenses and microscopes to make drawings and monoprints of marvellous microscopic things. Suitable for children aged 7+.

**Meet the Royals**

A family friendly workshop

**Saturday 9 October**

**Basement Gallery, 2 to 4pm**

Find out about the strange goings on in the first professional scientific society: Peculiar pumps and a double-bottomed ship! Suitable for ages 9-13.

**Booking required.**

**The Natural History of Oxfordshire**

**Saturday 13 November, 2 to 5pm**

The full title of Robert Plot's book of 1677 was 'The Natural History of Oxford-shire, Being an Essay toward the Natural History of England', indicating a grander project he never completed. His *Oxfordshire*, however, is a fascinating collection of facts and anecdotes about the county, which, with the help of local historians and other residents, we compare with our knowledge of Oxfordshire today.

## Gallery Tours

**The Old Ashmolean and the Royal Society**

**Saturday 6 March,**

**12 noon, 2pm, 4pm**

These gallery tours, led by Jim Bennett, are part of a festival of science to be held in Broad Street.

## Table Talks

A large table in the Basement Gallery is used for informal talks and demonstrations.

**Robert Hooke's Air Pump**

Jim Bennett

**Sunday 6 June, 2.30pm**

**The Microscopes of**

**Antoni van Leeuwenhoek**

**Sunday 5 September, 2.30pm**

Stephen Johnston

## Displays

**Robert Hooke and the**

**Royal Society**

**12 January to 11 April**

**Basement Gallery**

A display of items from the library.

**Early Science in Broad Street**

**21 September to 23 December**

**Basement Gallery**

A display illustrating the early scientific work in the building now occupied by the Museum of the History of Science.

**Museum of the History of Science** Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3AZ

**Tel:** 01865 277280 **email:** museum@mhs.ox.ac.uk

**web:** www.mhs.ox.ac.uk

**Opening Times:** Tuesday to Friday 12-5pm

Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 2-5pm

**Admission is free**