

SCIENCE IN PARLIAMENT

The Journal of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

The Committee is an Associate Parliamentary Group of members of both Houses of Parliament and British members of the European Parliament, representatives of scientific and technical institutions, industrial organisations and universities.

Science in Parliament has two main objectives:

- a) to inform the scientific and industrial communities of activities within Parliament of a scientific nature and of the progress of relevant legislation;*
- b) to keep Members of Parliament abreast of scientific affairs.*



Michael Dixon's NHM inspires public engagement with science, as our planet's future depends on a better understanding of nature. Robert Key says politicians must recognise that Britain's success depends on our scientists, technologists and engineers. Paul Wiles promotes identity verification using ID cards and the National Identity Register. Peter Davis's plastics are recycled or burnt to help close the energy gap. Graham Hearn's electrostatics sort waste plastics



into clean, single polymer streams, prior to melting and reforming. Lee Clayton's UK plastic recycling plant makes a profit and Roger Morton's research on novel plastic separation techniques reduces plastic disposal in landfill.

The Royal Society of Chemistry's Parliamentary Links Day is "the foremost scientific gathering in the Parliamentary calendar" according to the Prime Minister, while Hilary Benn unites scientists and policymakers in the fight against poverty and disease in Africa. Paul Chivers' industrial revolution replaces metals with composites in the Airbus A350 wing. Gordon Masterton presents the State of the Nation, with radical solutions for infrastructure problems. Visions of Science emphasise diversity of technique and mode of expression. Bill McGuire discusses early warning for tsunami that could prevent a hazard becoming a disaster. Lord Warner believes that PFI will underpin the NHS new build, while Allyson Pollock argues that PFI is built on sand. Aftab Khan's geophysicists are a declining resource requiring attention. The Committee is stimulated by a visit to the Genetics Knowledge Park, while Philippa Rogers develops the UK/Japan S&T relationship, John Freeman considers codes of conduct for weapons scientists, Michael Bode's Spaceport locates on the Mersey and Robert Freer engineers sustainable development. Following this edition I hand over the reins (ie chair of the Editorial Board) to Dr Brian Iddon, MP for Bolton South East. I have enjoyed my stint in charge of Science in Parliament immensely and I wish Brian every success. I also want to thank Annabel Lloyd and Peter Simpson whose hard work and inventiveness contribute so much to our journal.

Dr Douglas Naysmith MP
Chairman, Editorial Board,
Science in Parliament

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Front cover photo: A computer-generated impression of the new Airbus A350