Royal Society of Biology
West Midlands

Meet the Committee

Tuesday 06 October 2020
Outline

- RSB Updates
- WM data
- WM events this year
- Meet the committee – well, some of them 😊
- WM events to come / in planning
- Questions for the committee / suggestions for future events
RSB and COVID-19

- Postponed all in-person events until further notice
- Big Biology Day grants suspended
- COVID-19 bulletin
- Online education resources / training courses / events
The Royal Society of Biology welcomes everyone who has an interest in the biosciences, and our membership spans all seven continents. The RSB's impact is built upon the knowledge and support of our members and we thank them for all their contributions and involvement, particularly towards our policy work.

**Membership growth between 2009 and 2020**
- 11,000 (93%) of members surveyed are happy with their membership
- 17,400 (88%) of members surveyed would recommend membership to others

**Individual member benefits:**
- Access to professional registers
- Reduced training course rates
- Monthly newsletters
- The Biologist magazine
- Access to RSB CPD scheme
- Awards and grants for members
- Career support and advice
- Events and networking

**6 Different membership grades for individual members**
- Fellow (FRSB)
- Member (MRSB)
- Associate (AMRSB)
- Affiliate
- Student Affiliate
- BioNet

**39 Honorary Fellowships**
Honouring exceptional impact in the life sciences

**20 RSB Ambassadors**
Widening the RSB’s reach across industry and higher education

**Member Organisations**
- 160 Organisational member benefits:
  - Reduced rates for RSB membership
  - Event partnership opportunities
  - Discounted rates at events and courses
  - Contribution to RSB policy work
  - Free course approval for CPD recognition
  - Join RSB working groups
  - Monthly newsletters
  - Publicise events through RSB channels

- 90 Schools and Colleges Affiliation Scheme (SCAS) Memberships for schools and colleges, specifically designed to be accessible, affordable and to provide a wide range of benefits

- 7 Membership Organisations
  - Typically biology-led, and have members themselves
  - Membership services provided

To find out more about the RSB membership, benefits and grades, contact:
- membership@rsb.org.uk
- rsb.org.uk/membership

anniversary.rsb.org.uk

Our Impact | A Decade of Growth
The Royal Society of Biology has a diverse network of branch committees who arrange a vibrant range of local events and activities for members, families and members of the public.

Branch activities and reach

- **Events organised each year by branch committees:** 100+
- **Members who volunteer on our branch committees:** 150+
- **Total number of followers across branch social media channels:** 20+
- **Charlotte and Anne’s**
- **New branches since 2009:** 3
- **Regional branches in the UK:** 17
- **New branches since 2009:** 2
- **International branches:** 2

Supporting branches

- **Bi-annual working group meetings and annual meetings with branch committees and RSB staff:** 3
- **Online resources available for committee members covering event planning, finances, health and safety and more:** 111
- **Full time members of staff to support events and regional activity:** 2,600+

£40,000

To get involved with your regional branch committee, contact:

regions@rsb.org.uk
rsb.org.uk/branches

Our Impact | A Decade of Growth

The growth of...
RSB Regional branches

Over the last decade, the RSB’s regional programme has grown in number and variety, and their calendar of events now includes trips, tours, lectures, workshops and public engagement.

Over the last decade, the RSB has become a focal point for advice and comment, working closely with supporting organisations to ensure the voice of the biosciences is heard by governments and policymakers.

The RSB provides evidence, challenges assumptions and increases awareness of the breadth of knowledge and innovation. We also support voices from diverse backgrounds and ensure they are represented across the biosciences.

“...The RSB’s Science Policy Newsletter is invaluable as it provides a clear and efficient snapshot of the latest developments on a weekly basis. It’s high on my must read list.”

Professor Julia Buckingham CBE FRSB

Eating and Biodiversity
Ecology
Voting research
Food production
Biomedical science
Diet and immigration

200+

Policy outputs published since 2005, covering a wide range of topics

Subscribers to our weekly Science Policy Newsletter

8

Voice of the Future
Policy Lates debate events, free and open to the public

8

Parliamentary Lates Days, connecting MPs, peers, and the STEM community

We co-sponsor and provide senior representation at events across the UK

Influence

The RSB brings experts together to advise policy and decision-makers in Government, Parliament, research funders and institutions, and other societies and organisations.

28

Organisations in the Animal Science Group, that engages with the Home Office via the UK Bioscience Sector Coalition

21

Member organisations collaborate through the UK Plant Sciences Federation (UKPSF)

23

Member organisations share best practice through our Diversity and Inclusion Working Group (https://www.rsb.org.uk)

2

Major reports published on the future potential of the UK plant science sector

24 meetings and 3 summi...
Winner of the Professional Publishers Awards Scotland

Specialist Magazine of the Year 2019
Biology Week 2019

114
Events took place in the UK and abroad

12
Events ran by Royal Society of Biology regional branches

7
Events funded by the Biology Week Outreach and Engagement grant scheme

#AMABIOLIST TWITTER CAMPAIGN

2602
Number of times #amabiologist was used during the social media campaign

1494
Number of biologists who shared a photo of themselves in action as part of the campaign

72
Different countries took part in the campaign

2,735,074
Total reach of the #amabiologist campaign (number of people who saw at least one #amabiologist tweet)

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

500+
People attended events run by the RSB London office

114
Politicians, members and stakeholders attended the Parliamentary reception

232
People attended the annual Royal Institute debate ‘Marine plastics: is it too late to save our oceans?’

107
People attended the RSB Annual Awards Ceremony at the Francis Crick Institute, London

4828
Votes cast in our favourite freshwater species poll, with the otter coming in first

80
People attended Policy Lates: ‘Insect declines in the headlights’

COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

2590
Total competition entries for Biology Week 2019

1959
Entries for the RSB Photography competition

565
Entries submitted for the Nancy Rothwell Award

40
Entries for #BioArtAttack competition

26
Entries for the Outreach and Engagement Awards
West Midlands Branch
West Midlands
Branch members: 847

Membership grade of West Midlands branch

- Bionet: 399
- Affiliate: 126
- Associate: 129
- Member: 167
- Fellow: 26

Jan 2020
Social Media

Twitter
@RSBWestMids 620 followers

Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/rsb_west_midlands/
Events over the last 12 months
December 2019

Christmas social, seasonal talks and festive quiz

Join the West Midlands branch for a festive series of short talks, followed by a biology-related quiz and seasonal sweet treats and refreshments at their second Christmas social.

Date: Tuesday 10 December
Time: 19:00 to 21:00
Location: Birmingham City University, Birmingham B15 3TN
Tickets: RSB members £3, Non-members £5
January 2020

Talk on Blood Vessels

Tudor Grange School, Solihull
February 2020

Forestry Talk

The new Institute of Forest Research, BiFoR
University of Birmingham
February 2020

Darwin Festival, Shrewsbury

Darwin’s Worms
Emma Sherlock
NHM
February 2020

Committee Meeting

University of Warwick

Dr Philip Young
Ask an epidemiologist
COVID-19 Q and A twitter takeover

Answering your questions
Live on Twitter
19.00 until 20.00 BST
28 May 2020
Submit your questions using #RSBQandA

Follow our RSB West Midlands branch  RSB_West_Midlands  RSBWestMids
May, June, July, August, Sept, Oct

Virtual Quizzes

Jill & Ben
Online Committee Meetings
April, June, September
West Midlands’ Branch Committee

Chair: Dr Sue Howarth CBiol FRSB
Treasurer: Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB
External Communication Secretary: Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB
Meetings Secretary: Amelia Lakin AMRSB
Student Engagement Coordinator: Dr Phillip Young FRSB
Events Coordinators: Norma Broadbridge MBE FRSB, Dr Caroline Day CBiol FRSB, Dr Daniel Franklin MRSB, Ben Glover, Dr Jill Johnson MRSB, Dr Luisa Orsini MRSB, Dr Sarah Williams MRSB.
Amelia Lakin, AMRSB

Phlebotomist.
Biomedical Assistant, Virology & Molecular Biology.

Meetings Secretary
Social Media (Instagram)

BSc (Hons) Human Biology

MSc Biomedical Science
Luisa Orsini, MRSB

Our newest committee member
Senior Lecturer in Biosystems and Environmental Change at the University of Birmingham
Ben Glover

Youngest RSB branch committee member?
Jill Johnson PhD
MRSB

Lecturer in Biomedical Science
College of Health and Life Sciences, Aston University
West Midlands branch committee member and quizmaster
Girl Guide Leader
Biocrafter
Cat lover

https://research.aston.ac.uk/en/persons/jill-johnson

drjilljohnson.org

Instagram: @darwinmacbraveheart
Sue Howarth FRSG, Chair RSB/WM
Future Events - Definite

• Charter Lecture
• November quiz
• AGM + Hedgehog talk
Charter Lecture: 07 Oct 2020

Biology Week: 2020 Charter Lecture and Q&A

The West Midlands branch's online annual charter lecture will be delivered by Professor Graham Medley, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE). The lecture has the timely theme of infections, disease risks and control, with a focus on COVID-19.

**Date:** 7th October 2020 | 19:00-20:30
**Location:** Online (Zoom)
**Price:** Free

Find out more about us: www.rsb.org.uk/WestMidlands
November Virtual Quiz
November AGM & Hedgehog Talk

AGM and Hedgehog Talk

The West Midlands branch Annual General Meeting will follow a talk on hedgehog ecology, conservation, and habitat improvement delivered by Dr Deborah Wright.

Date: 17th November 2020 | 19:00-20:30
Location: Online (Zoom)
Price: Free

Find out more about us: www.rsb.org.uk/WestMidlands

Royal Society of Biology
Future Events – Planning
December Quiz and Xmas Social

• Quiz
• AN Other game/puzzle
• Short talk/s – speaker/s wanted
Pioneers of Biology series

• Frank Pantridge – Developed the portable defibrillator
  • Creating a new rhythm for life – 19th February in Northern Ireland
Pioneers of Biology series

Maurice Wilkins – produced the first clear X-ray images of DNA; shared the 1962 Nobel Prize for Physiology with Watson & Crick

Speaker: Sir Paul Nurse

Venue: University of Birmingham
Photography Competition
Online Darwin Festival Feb 2021

Search is on for speaker
Visit to Slimbridge, WWT
The BIFoR FACE facility
Questions and Suggestions
Thank you