

Surely nobody can have failed to notice that "Science" is everywhere these days?

We had (Sir) Tim Berners Lee to help open the Olympics. He was closely followed by Stephen Hawking at the Paralympics. It was also clear (at least to the French) that our cyclists had an (unfair) advantage because our science and engineering were superior!

But almost every day on radio or television we can enjoy Dara Ó Briain and Brian Cox as well as Jim Al-Khalili. Melvyn Bragg is not far behind with topics for his programmes. When you were replete with turkey and other comestibles, there were the RI Christmas Lectures. One glimpse of the astonishment in those youthful faces told you what "engagement" really means.

The science Minister, David Willetts, has been able to persuade even the Treasury that graphene may be important. And then we had the astonishing talk at the Oxford Farming Conference by Mark Lynas. He apologised for destroying GM crops, accepted that the position he took was misguided, and admitted that he changed his mind because of science. Allelujah!

And yet there is still much to do. John of Gaunt thought that "sudden storms are short" and that our nation was "a precious stone set in a silver sea", but in the last twelve months we have witnessed a hosepipe ban throughout much of the country coincident with the second wettest year on record. The Ancient Mariner could see "water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink". My Select Committee has recognised both these issues and we are investigating both Marine Science and Water Quality during 2013.

Meanwhile, the P&SC continues to lead the way, whether on High Speed Trains, Gut Health, or Energy. Always worth popping in on a Tuesday at 5.30 to catch up. I hope see you there.



Andrew Miller MP
Chairman, Parliamentary
and Scientific
Committee

SCIENCE IN PARLIAMENT sip

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:

1. to inform the scientific and industrial communities of activities within Parliament of a scientific nature and of the progress of relevant legislation;
2. to keep Members of Parliament abreast of scientific affairs.

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