

More on the 50th Anniversary Celebrations: An update and a call for you to take part

Events are moving ahead rapidly as we plan ahead for the celebrations next year for the IMA's 50th Birthday. This is a year which will involve all IMA members and we very much hope that you can all make it a year to remember. There are lots of ways to get involved, these include sponsoring the events, sending in photos or other memorabilia, designing a maths trail or simply turning up to the many events being organised. These events will be going on all through the year in the different IMA regions, but we would like to highlight some of the major ones.

Birthday event

There will be a 'Birthday event' at the Royal Society on 14 May 2014. This will be an afternoon session of mathematical talks (by Celia Hoyles OBE, CMATHTeach FIMA, Ian Stewart FRS, CMATH FIMA and Alain Goriely amongst others) and the IMA Gold Medal presentation and lecture. This will be followed by an evening reception with Matt Parker giving an after reception talk. The President has invited all living past presidents and original founders (or their representatives) to attend. It will be open to all IMA members and their guests at a cost of £15 (members) and £20 (non-members). We also hope that we will be able to welcome some other very distinguished guests. This will be a time to celebrate the work of the IMA and we hope to make a display of members' photos and other memorabilia from the last 50 years.

The Festival of Mathematics and its Applications

This will be held from 2–4th July 2014 in the Turing Building, Manchester. It will be a hands-on fun and exciting event showcasing mathematics and its impact on our lives both now and in the future. It will be open to academics, schools and the general public. The festival will comprise mathematically related exhibitions and workshops, popular maths talks (both during the day and in the evening of the 2nd and the 3rd) and four half day sessions on the themes of mathematical education, research, policy and maths in industry.

Maths Walks

We will be launching a series of IMA@50 Maths Walks throughout 2014. Currently maths walks of Bath, Cheltenham and the Russell Square area are close to completion and more are planned for the British Museum, the London Underground and Greenwich. We are also hoping to have a '42 Bridges of Bristol' walk. More walks are planned in the IMA regions and we hope that your own IMA region will feel moved to produce their own walk.

50 Visions of Mathematics

I am delighted to say that thanks to the great work of the editor Sam Parc, the manuscript for the book '50 visions of mathematics' has been sent to Oxford University Press and the book will appear during 2014. This is a collection of fifty light-hearted articles about mathematics from some very distinguished authors including David Acheson AFIMA, John Barrow, Marcus du Sautoy, Simon Singh Hon FIMA, David Spiegelhalter FIMA and Ian Stewart FRS, CMATH FIMA. It also includes an article from Paul Williams FIMA, winner of the *Mathematics Today* competition. This will go on sale at a reduced price for IMA members and all royalties will go to support the work of the IMA.



A photo of Sir James Lighthill, one of the founding members and presidents of the IMA (and the subject of an article in the forthcoming book), demonstrating the Rijke Tube.

How can you help?

The work and activities of the IMA in its 50th year need your support! Please consider donating a small amount to support both the events above and the future work of the IMA. If every member donated just £10 then we could raise £40,000 which would be terrific. Currently donations stand at just over £4,000; there is a long way to go, so please think about supporting the IMA in this way. To make things easy we have created a website www.justgiving.com/IMA-50th-Anniversary-Appeal where you can donate as much or as little as you want.

We are also keen to have any photos, stories, signed conference booklets or anything else of historic value that could add to the story of the IMA's work over the last 50 years. So please have a rummage through your desk drawers and send anything that you find of value to Rebecca Waters (rebecca.waters@ima.org.uk or by post to CRH, 16 Nelson Street, Southend, SS1 1EF). For an image to inspire you, we've included a photo of one of our founding members. See you in 2014.

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