

THE ROYAL PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (SCIO) CHARITY NO. SC015557



216th Lecture Series 7.30pm - 14th March 2018

Professor John Barker

The Exploration of Space: the Austerity Years



ABSTRACT

Spaceflight has always been expensive and dangerous. A great deal of the cost has been borne by military budgets especially during the Cold War. Public interest waned following the heady days of the Moon landings and the original plans to land a crew on Mars were shelved. The evolution of Spaceflight has since followed four paths: commercialisation; scientific exploration; manned spaceflight; emergent robotic exploration. But worldwide we are living in an age of Austerity, can any country really afford or justify the huge costs needed to sustain humans in space? The lecture will assess what has really been achieved in Space and what a sustainable affordable future might look like. We shall touch on Glasgow's role in the Face on Mars and Swarm Technology. Finally, we consider the revived dream of landing people on Mars spiced up by the Billionaires' Dash for Space.

BIOGRAPHY

John is a theoretical physicist with first degrees from Edinburgh and Durham Universities and a PhD from Warwick University. He lectured in Theoretical Physics at Warwick (1970-1985) and was Professor of Electronics at the University of Glasgow (1985-2008) where he set up the Theory group of the Nanoelectronics Research Centre. Currently he is Emeritus Professor and Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Glasgow University. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1990), Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society (1991), Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (1999). John has had a long-standing interest in teaching and research in Astronomy/Space Science although his main field continues to be the quantum theory of electronic nanostructures.

LINK <http://johnreginaldbarker.co.uk>

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East.
Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.

Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.

Visitors welcome