LINDEMANN TRUST

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

Welcome to this latest issue of this biannual newsletter – and the last six months have been very busy indeed for the Lindemann Trust. Outreach activities have prospered with presentations at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition and, as reported below, our continuing primary schools' science days particular highlights. It was a great joy to attend the day the Trust sponsored with the Science Engagement unit at Durham University and witness the primary schoolchildren's confidence, creativity, curiosity and engagement with their projects, sharing and celebrating their achievements. We shall repeat this next year as well as co-hosting similar events at Edinburgh and St Andrews.

These activities have been a focus for our fundraising and I'm delighted to announce the forthcoming creation of a Lindemann Outreach Fund, an annual giving scheme, initiated and supported by our Trustees and committee members and then open to alumni, to build a dependable source of funds for our 'Bringing Science to Life' schools' days for state primary schools in disadvantaged areas. Each year the fund will sponsor schools that have never taken part before. Gifts will cover the practical costs that determine a school's attendance: coach transport, workshop materials and presenters' travel. For our March 2027 Cambridge day, for example, the cost is about £11 a child, which for a class of 30 suggests roughly £400 a school. On that basis £1,500 would sponsor roughly three schools and £3,000 roughly seven.

With many thanks for your continued support.

James Raven (Chair, Lindemann Trust)

Event Reports

Alumni Lunch, Magdalene College, Cambridge

We were pleased to welcome Lindemann Alumni, Associates and Friends to Magdalene College for the annual lunch. It was wonderful to hear such enthusiasm for both our Fellowship and Outreach work, and we were delighted in particular to hear from alumna, Viv Cumming, who completed her Fellowship in Earth Sciences at Harvard in 2014 and has subsequently gone on to forge a very successful career as an award-winning documentary film-maker, photographer and writer.

Lindemann Alumni, Associates and Friends enjoying lunch at Magdalene College.

Science Discovery with Schools in Durham

We were delighted to begin a new partnership with Durham University, engaging in a day of science-discovery! Working with upper KS2 children from local Primary Schools, participants were able to explore and celebrate all things scientific by sharing ideas, showcasing their work and taking part in practical activities. Thanks go to alumni, Stuart Adams and Simon Cornish, for their support with this event.

Children in Durham showcasing and exploring different experiments

Lindemann at the Royal Society

Lindemann Alumnus, James McGilligan, of Strathclyde, was invited to speak as part of the Royal Society's Summer Exhibition programme, giving a talk on the history and science of timekeeping. James completed his Lindemann Fellowship in 2018 at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Boulder. A recording of this talk will be available on the Royal Society YouTube channel.

Applications now open!

We are now open for applications for 2027-29 Fellowships. Please spread the word in your departments and research groups! Fellowships last for 2 years and are now worth an increased amount of $150,000. Deadline: Monday 8 February 2027.

Spotlight on...Viv Cumming, Lindemann Alumna 2014

We were delighted to welcome Dr Viv Cumming to our recent alumni lunch. Viv's Lindemann story started in a notable way: she joined the panel for her initial interview via video link from Everest base camp! Clearly it stood her in good stead, as she went on to complete her Fellowship in Earth Sciences at Harvard, After this, Viv turned to storytelling through film to raise awareness of environmental and humanitarian issues and the importance of our connection with the natural world. She produces films and campaigns for NGOs, scientists, brands, and the media, with clients including Earthrise Studio, The Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest, UNICEF, and the International Ocean Discovery Program. Her films have been screened at BAFTA & BIFA qualifying film festivals, COP Climate Change conferences, and the UN, and her work has been published by the BBC and National Geographic.

In progressing our fundraising for the Fellowships, we are keen to receive examples of how your pioneering research has impacted on society. Please get in touch to share your story - a punchy paragraph is all we need!

Upcoming Events

Introduction to Science for Year 6: we have a number of outreach events planned for the coming academic year, including one in partnership with Edinburgh University in the Spring, our annual day in Cambridge in March, and a return to Durham University in the Summer. If you are interested in presenting or would like further details, please let us know.

We also hope to return to London as part of the Royal Society Summer Exhibition, and will be visiting Belfast to take part in Engineers' Week Ireland.