

## Chairman's Message

### *Date for your diary*

I am sure RSPSoc members have heard the sad news that Professor Mike Barnsley passed away in December. Mike truly was a leading light in the field of remote sensing, and a strong supporter of RSPSoc (earlier RSS). He was also a very nice guy, something that came across strongly in the many tributes to Mike at his funeral, which I attended on behalf of his many friends and colleagues in the Society

Among Professor Barnsley's many professional roles was his position on the RAE sub-panel for Geography and Environmental Studies. Concerned that remote sensing and photogrammetry would now not be represented well in the RAE process, I wrote in January to the chairman of the panel and the AGI urging them to consider a new appointment. I am pleased to say this matter has been brought to a swift resolution, and Giles Foody of the University of Nottingham has been appointed. I should stress, due process being what it is, I was completely unaware of these developments until the public announcement was made, even though Giles's office is not 20 m from my own!

I am now proud to announce that RSPSoc and UCL are holding an evening event in memory of Professor Barnsley. The 'Mike Barnsley Lecture and Conversazione' will take place on Friday **6 JUNE 2008** at University College London (see enclosed flyer for details). This will feature talks from former colleagues outlining some of Mike's ground-breaking contributions across a range of remote sensing and photogrammetry topics, followed by a buffet and wine refreshments, and tributes to Professor Barnsley. The event is open to all and is sure to hold technical and social interest for those unfamiliar with Mike and his work, as well as for those who knew him personally or professionally. I look forward to welcoming all for this evening of celebration.

On to other matters, and I am delighted to announce that Dr Samantha Lavender has been appointed as the Society's new Vice-Chairman (Chairman-elect). This is excellent news; Sam has been an active and committed member of Council for several years now, and will no doubt provide strong leadership for RSPSoc in the coming years. Rather than introduce her at length here, I refer you to Sam's 'Ordinary Member Profile' later in the Newsletter. January was a particularly busy time for the composition of Council and Committees, with many new appointments – see 'Council News' for further details. More **OPPORTUNITIES EXIST**, though, for enthusiastic members to become more involved in the running of the Society. Council election information is enclosed with the Newsletter and this year there are five vacancies! If you have some interest in this, do consider submitting a nomination, and I would be happy to answer any queries in the meantime.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that RSPSoc has made a formal bid to the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing to host Technical Commission V, 'Close-range Sensing and Applications', for the 2008-2012 period. The bid is led by the proposed TC V President, Professor Jon Mills of Newcastle University. Success here would boost activities in this subject significantly in the UK and elsewhere, and it would also be a great plaudit for RSPSoc. The outcome of the bid will become known at the ISPRS Congress in Beijing in July, and I wish Jon every success in this endeavour.

*Paul Aplin*

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