

## Media Information

**FAO News Planning/News & Features Desks:**

### **Earthquakes at Home and Abroad**

At a public lecture on Earthquakes, leading geology expert, Ms Alice Walker of the British Geological Survey is to explain the cause and impact of earthquakes at home and abroad, including the Boxing Day Indian Ocean Tsunami. The lecture will take place in Dingwall Academy on Tuesday 8 March, 7.00pm. All are welcome to this talk which is suitable for all ages. This public talk is part of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Roadshow, visiting Dingwall on 8-9 March. The Roadshow includes free talks and workshops for primary and secondary school students (please see *Notes for Editors*).

Earthquakes occur everywhere in the world, although most are along the edges of the great plates that make up the Earth's outer skin and which move at about the speed our fingernails grow. Each year, the globe is shaken by thousands of earthquakes but many go unnoticed except by the seismologists who study them. Large earthquakes can cause landslides and tsunami and can rupture gas or water mains, causing raging fires and flooding.

The UK is not immune from earthquakes - it has around 200 each year! The largest onshore earthquake in the last 140 years occurred in North Wales on 19 July 1984 with a magnitude of 5.4. It was felt over most of England, throughout Wales and even into Scotland and Ireland and caused damage as far away as Liverpool, 120 km from its epicentre. Our biggest earthquake in Scotland was smaller, at magnitude 5.2, and was centred in Argyle, near Loch Awe in 1880. Scottish earthquakes are still continuing; most recently with one of magnitude 3.2 near Aberfoyle on 20 June 2003. The shaking was felt by people in that area but no damage was caused.

Refreshments from 6.30pm at Dingwall Academy  
Tickets cost £2 (£1 concessions) and are available from Dingwall Academy School Office, Dingwall, IV15 9LT. Tel 01349 863071.

For more information, please contact Emma Faragher, Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PQ. Tel 0131 240 5000, Fax 0131 240 5024  
Email [efaragher@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:efaragher@royalsoced.org.uk) [www.royalsoced.org.uk](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk)

**For Media Enquiries only, please contact:**

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**Notes for Editors:**

**1. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Roadshow**

As well as the above lecture, the RSE will also run the following activities for school groups (8-9 March, Dingwall):

*Do I Eat DNA? by the University of Edinburgh*

Hands-on Workshops for P6/7 students at various primary schools in the Dingwall Academy Cluster group.

DNA is all around us and can be found in surprising places. The workshop starts with a game, where the children sort objects according to whether they think the objects contains DNA or not. They then select a piece of fruit from which they will extract the DNA.

Tuesday 8 March. Two workshops at Strathpeffer Primary School and one at Conon Primary School

Wednesday 9 March. Two workshops at Dingwall Primary School and one at Tarradale Primary School

*Computer Science Inside..The Mobile Phone by Dr Quintin Cutts, The University of Glasgow*

Hands-on Workshops for S3, S4 and Higher Students

A workshop that explores the role of Computer Science in objects from everyday life . how does your mobile really work? The workshop will try to clarify the role of Computer Science in society, as separate from Information Technology and aims to motivate an enthusiasm for the subject and highlight the potential for future careers in the area.

Tuesday 8 March - Three Workshops at Dingwall Academy

Wednesday 9 March - Two Workshops at Dingwall Academy

*Earthquakes: at home and abroad by Ms Alice Walker, British Geological Survey*

Talk(s) for Students Tuesday 8 March at Dingwall Academy

Two talks to S1 and S4 Students

All Schools Activities are for Invited School Groups only. Please contact the RSE if you wish to interview/photograph part of this event.

For further information, please contact the Education Team at the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Tel : 0131 240 5000

Email: [education@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:education@royalsoced.org.uk)

## **2. Ms Alice Walker**

Alice Walker has worked extensively for the British Geological Society (BGS). On sabbatical from the BGS, she is now engaged in a European Space Agency project to promote the use of satellite radars in monitoring millimetric ground movements for improved hazard assessment. Throughout her career to-date, she has been a regular broadcaster, on TV and radio, bringing information and expertise on UK and worldwide earthquakes to the public. She has also engaged with schoolchildren to spread that knowledge and understanding whenever opportunities were found.

## **3. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)**

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is Scotland's National Academy. A wholly independent, non party-political body with charitable status, the RSE is a *knowledge resource* for the people of Scotland. Organising conferences and lectures both for the specialist and for the general public, the RSE is a forum for informed debate on issues of national and international importance. The Society draws upon the expertise of its multidisciplinary fellowship of men and women of international standing, to provide independent, expert advice to key decision making bodies, including Government and Parliament. Strengthening links between academia and industry and boosting wealth-generation at home, the Society's Research Awards programme annually awards over one and a half million pounds to exceptionally talented young academics and potential entrepreneurs.

Today, operating a successful programme of inspiring lectures and hands-on workshops for primary and secondary school pupils, the RSE is also active in classrooms from the Borders to the Northern Isles. The multidisciplinary membership of the RSE makes it unique amongst learned Societies in Great Britain. Its peer-elected fellowship encompasses excellence in the Sciences, Arts, Humanities, the Professions, Industry and Commerce. Born out of the intellectual ferment of the Scottish Enlightenment, the RSE was founded in 1783 by Royal Charter for the "advancement of learning and useful knowledge". A progressive Scottish Society, working as part of the UK and within a global context, the Royal Society of Edinburgh is committed to the future of Scotland's social, economic and cultural well-being. The RSE is Scottish Charity No. SC000470.

Further information about the RSE can be found on its website at:  
<http://www.royalsoced.org.uk>

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