



# THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY – CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION  
YR ACADEMI GENEDLAETHOL – YN DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

Annual General Meeting, 23 May 2018

AGM/2018/07

Agendum 10

*Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol, 23 Mai 2018*

CCB/2018/07

Agendwm 10

## Fellowship Matters

- 40 new Fellows were elected in April 2018. There are now 498 Fellows of the Society and five Honorary Fellows.
- Two Honorary Fellows were also elected in April 2018: Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern who is a pre-eminent Social Anthropologist whose wide international acclaim is founded on her extensive field research that began almost 50 years ago in Papua New Guinea in Melanesia. Also joining as an Honorary Fellow is Professor Sir Vaughan FR Jones, a revolutionary mathematician, known for his work on von Neumann algebras and knot polynomials.
- The deaths during the year of Professor Harold Carter DLitt FRGS FLSW (elected 2011), Yr Athro Bobi Jones DLitt FLSW FBA (Founding Fellow), Professor Vernon Morgan DSc FEng FCGI FIET FInstP FLSW (elected 2011), Professor Neil Reeve FLSW (elected 2017), and Lord Stewart Sutherland of Houndwood KT FBA FRSE HonFLSW (elected 2017), are, with great regret, recorded below.
- During The Society year May 2017 to May 2018, three Fellows resigned.

## Fellow's Honours, Prizes and Awards

Warmest congratulations are offered to the following Fellows on the conferment upon them during the past year of honours, prizes and awards, as indicated:

**Professor Antony Chapman DSc FBPsS FAcSS FIoD DSc HonFBPsS FLSW** - has been awarded an OBE for services to Higher Education.

**Professor David Charles FLSW** - has been appointed the Howard H. Newman Philosophy Professor at Yale University.

**The Reverend Professor Douglas Davies DLitt FAcSS FBA SBStJ FLSW** - has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

**Professor Jasmine Donahaye FLSW** - has been promoted to Professor of English Literature & Creative Writing.

**Professor Gillian Douglas FAcSS FBA FLSW** - has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

**Professor David Edmunds FLSW** - has been elected as a Foreign Member of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences.

**Professor Dianne Edwards CBE ScD FRSE FLS FRS MAE FLSW** - has received honorary doctorates of science from the Universities of Edinburgh and Wales and a medal from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, India.

**Professor Christopher Evans FRSC FRCPATH FIOR FLSW** - has been elected as an Honorary Member of the Croatian Orthopaedic Society, an Inaugural Fellow of the Orthopaedic Research Society; awarded the Senior Achievement Award by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Distinguished Investigator Award by the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation.

**Yr Athro Robert Evans MAE FBA FLSW** - will be admitted to the Blue Robes/ Gwisg Las section of the Gorsedd at the 2018 Eisteddfod.

**Professor Roger Falconer DSc DEng FReNG FLSW** - has been awarded Honorary Membership of the International Association for Hydro-Environmental Engineering and Research, and was appointed Vice-President of the International Association for Coastal Reservoir Research; gave the Dr. K.T. Dholakia Oration to the Bombay Orthopaedic Society.

**Professor Claire Gorrara FRHistS FLSW** - the Modern Foreign Languages Student Mentoring Project has been awarded the Threlford Cup by the Chartered Institute of Linguists.

**Professor Karen Holford CBE FReNG FIMECHE FICE FInstP FLSW** - has been awarded a CBE for her work helping advance women in science and engineering.

**Professor Graham Hutchings FRS FICHEM FRSC FLSW** – has been awarded the Faraday Lectureship Prize by the Royal Society of Chemistry

**Lord Justice David Lloyd Jones QC FLSW** - has been appointed the first Welsh member of the Supreme Court.

**Professor Ruth King FRSE FLSW** - has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

**Dr Alun Cynfael Lake FLSW** - will be admitted to the Green Robes/ Gwisg Werdd section of the Gorsedd at the 2018 Eisteddfod.

**Dr William Marx FRHistS FLSW** - Brepols (Turnhout, Belgium) published *Editing and Interpretation of Middle English Texts: Essays in Honour of William Marx*, (eds. Margaret Connolly and Raluca Radulescu), a festschrift in acknowledgement of Dr Marx's contributions to Medieval English Literature, particularly to textual criticism and manuscript studies.

**Yr Athro Prys Morgan FRHistS FSA FLSW** - was awarded the Medal of The Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, recognising contribution and distinguished service to Wales.

**Professor Iwan Rhys Morus FRHistS FLSW** - has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

**Dr Drew Nelson OBE FReNG DEng FLSW** - has been awarded the St David Award for Innovation, Science & Technology.

**Professor Sir Keith Peters FMedSci FRCP FRCPE FRCPATH MAE FLSW FRS** - has been awarded a GBE (Knights Grand Cross of the British Empire) for his services to the advancement of Medical Science.

**Professor Sally Power FAcSS FLSW** - was conferred as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

**Professor Graham Richards CBE DSc FRS FRSC FLSW** - has been awarded the 2018 Richard J. Bolte Sr. Award for Supporting Industries and has been elected as a Fellow to the Royal Society.

**Professor Emeritus Gareth Ffowc Roberts FLSW** - has been awarded Honorary Fellowship by Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

**Professor Philip Alexander Routledge OBE MD FRCP FRCPE FBTS FRSB FAcadMed HonFRCGP HonFFPM HonFBPhS FLSW** - has been awarded a CBE for his services to Medicine.

**Professor Roger Scully FAcSS FLSW** - has won the Political Studies Association's award for Political Studies Communicator of the Year for 2017.

**Mr Ned Thomas FLSW** - will be admitted to the Green Robes/ Gwisg Werdd section of the Gorsedd at the 2018 Eisteddfod.

**Professor Ken Walters FLSW FRS** - has been elected as a Fellow of the (U.S.) Society of Rheology; Elsevier, have introduced an annual "Walters Prize", which is awarded to the authors of the best research paper published in the Journal of Non-Newtonian Fluid Mechanics; carrying a prize of €2,500.

**Professor Colin Williams FLSW** - has been elected a Senior Research Associate of the Von Hugel Institute, University of Cambridge and awarded a D.Litt by the University of Wales.

**Professor Daniel Wincott FLSW** - has been appointed as Leadership Coordinator, Governance and Brexit Research, by the Economic and Social Research Council for 25 recently commissioned Brexit priority grants.

**Professor Michael Woods FLSW** - has been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

## **REF 2021**

The following Fellows have been announced as REF Sub panel members:

- Professor Jane Aaron (English Literature)
- Professor David Blackaby (Economics)
- Professor Siwan Davies (Geography and Environmental Studies)
- Professor Sir Peter Harper (Mathematical Sciences)
- Professor Mark Haskins (Mathematical Sciences)
- Professor Oubay Hassan (Engineering)
- Professor Ann Heilmann (English Language and Literature)
- Professor Jerry Hunter (modern languages and linguistics)
- Professor Matt Griffin (Physics)
- Professor Paul Morgan (Medicine)
- Professor John Tucker (Comp Sci)

**Professor Justin Lewis** has been appointed Chair of the REF 2021 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management sub-panel.

## **Obituaries**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of the following Fellows of the Society during the year:

**Professor Harold Carter DLitt FRGS FLSW (1925 – 2017)**

Elected 2011

**Yr Athro Bobi Jones DLitt FLSW FBA (1929 – 2017)**

Founding Fellow

**Professor Vernon Morgan DSc FEng FCGI FIET FInstP FLSW (1941 – 2017)**

Elected 2011

**Professor Neil Reeve FLSW (1953 – 2018)**

Elected 2017

**Lord Stewart Sutherland of Houndwood KT FBA FRSE HonFLSW (1941 – 2018)**

Elected 2017

## Professor Harold Carter DLitt FRGS FLSW (1925 – 2017)

Yn ystod ei yrfa academiaidd, bu'n Athro Emeritws ym Mhrifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth ac yn Athro Daearyddiaeth Ddynol Gregynog. O 1983 tan iddo ymddeol yn 1986 roedd yn Gyfarwyddwr Adran Daearyddiaeth Aberystwyth. Cafodd ei dderbyn yn aelod o Orsedd y Beirdd yn Eisteddfod Llanrwst 1989. Yn arbenigwr ym maes daearyddiaeth ddynol Gymraeg, traddododd ddarlith radio flynyddol BBC Cymru yn 1988, dan y teitl Diwylliant, Iaith a Thiriogaeth.

Wrth roi teyrnged iddo, dywedodd yr Athro Rhys Jones o Adran Ddaearyddiaeth a Gwyddorau Daear Prifysgol Aberystwyth: "Er pan gyrhaeddodd yr Adran Daearyddiaeth ym 1949, bu cyfraniad yr Athro Harold Carter i fywyd academiaidd yr adran a'r brifysgol yn ehangach yn enfawr.

"Gwnaeth yr Athro Carter gyfraniad nodedig i ddatblygiad daearyddiaeth fel disgyblaeth.

"Daeth ei waith cynnar ar ddaearyddiaeth drefol - yng Nghymru a thu hwnt - yn enghraifft i ddaearyddwyr oedd yn gweithio yn y maes hwn.

"Ei angerdd arall oedd ymchwilio i ddaearyddiaeth yr iaith Gymraeg, a daeth ei erthyglau a'i lyfrau ar y thema - drwy gydweithio gyda'r Athro Emrys Bowen, ac yn fwy diweddar yr Athro John Aitchison - yn ddarllen gofynnol, nid yn unig i academyddion â diddordeb yn y themâu, ond hefyd i wneuthurwyr polisi ac ymgyrchwyr."

### **Paratowyd gan BBC Cymru Fyw**

Harold Carter graduated from Aberystwyth with first class honours in 1950. Later the same year he joined the Geography Department as an assistant lecturer and went on to complete his MA at Aberystwyth in 1952. In 1964 he became Dean of the Arts and was appointed Gregynog Professor of Human Geography in 1968.

Considered an authority on the Welsh language, from 1981-83 he took on the role of Deputy Principal, and was appointed Head of Geography in 1983, followed by Dean of the Welsh Medium Studies, a role he fulfilled until his retirement in 1986. During this time he also spent periods as visiting professor at Cincinnati and Maryland universities in the US, and Stellenbosch University in South Africa. He was inducted into the Gorsedd of the Bards at the National Eisteddfod in Llanrwst in 1989, and elected to the Learned Society of Wales in 2011.

**Prepared by Aberystwyth University**

## Yr Athro Bobi Jones DLitt FLSW FBA (1929 – 2017)

By far the most prolific writer of the Welsh language in his lifetime, Robert Maynard Jones was born into a working-class, English-speaking home in Cardiff in 1929.

His grandfather, a Marxist, instilled in him an egalitarian spirit which coloured all he wrote and did in later life – novels, short stories, poems, literary criticism which made no apology for being intellectually challenging. His aim was never to produce popular texts but to exercise both the reader and the language.

His non-creative work was published under the name RM Jones. His poems painted pictures of time he spent in Ghana, Quebec and Mexico City, where he fell ill.

Such was the scale of his output that Jones's peers joked he had more books to his name than he had readers – undeterred, he kept producing and consolidating his position as a stalwart of Welsh literature.

At Cathays grammar school he learned Welsh as a second language, and was inspired to study it at degree level at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

After teaching at Llanidloes in Montgomeryshire and Llangefni in Anglesey, he lectured at Trinity College, Carmarthen, and at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, joining the staff of the Welsh Department in 1966. He was appointed Professor of Welsh Language and Literature at Aberystwyth in 1980 – in 1969 he had taught Prince Charles Welsh there. He retired in 1989.

His marriage in 1952 to Anne Elizabeth (Beti) James, a native Welsh speaker from Pembrokeshire, proved crucial in his development as a poet. She inspired him towards Welsh literature, which was to remain – along with his Calvinist faith – the driving force of his career. At this time, too, he joined Plaid Cymru. The couple had two children, Rhodri and Lowri.

He made the case for what he saw as the complementary notions religion and nation in *Crist a Chenedlaetholdeb* ("Christ and Nationalism"), published in 1994.

In 1976 in, perhaps, a belated response to complaints that he was writing too much, he announced that he would publish no more verse for 10 years.

He found it difficult to keep his word and, as he once remarked to me with a wink, it did not mean he had to stop writing altogether.

He was no less prodigious in the writing of prose. His three novels are *Nid yw Dwr yn Plygu* ("Water does not bend", 1958), *Bod yn Wraig* ("To be a woman", 1960) and *Epistol Serch a Selsig* ("An epistle of love and sausages", 1997). Making no concession to "the common reader", these books are difficult even for those familiar with literary theory and are not meant to be popular – a category he despised and for the promoting of which he often took the Welsh Books Council to task.

In his view, the Welsh reader needed to be "fully stretched", for the integrity and vitality of the language depended on it. He regarded the minimalists among his critics, especially those poets who were content to bring out a slim volume and then fall silent, as exemplars of the Welsh inferiority complex, which he was fond of examining at every opportunity. His readers were taxed to the utmost by his works of literary theory.

As a student he was particularly anxious to learn why the language and literature of Wales play such a crucial part in the maintenance of Welsh nationhood.

Having mastered Welsh as a second language and made it the language of his home and writing, RM Jones turned to the teaching of Welsh to adults, a field in which he played a pioneering and inspirational role for many years, particularly as the prime mover of Cymdeithas y Dysgwyr (CYD, or “The Learners’ Society”), which since 1984 has been active in organising classes in all parts of Wales.

What he called for was a mass movement similar to the Ulpan scheme which had restored Hebrew in Israel, seeing it as the only hope for the survival of Welsh, and he worked tirelessly in pursuit of this ideal. He was fond of telling the story of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and his wife Devora who, after landing in Jaffa in 1881, resolved to speak only Hebrew with each other and swore to become the parents of the first child in modern times to have that language as its mother tongue.

Although he produced a number of works in English, it became to him a foreign language.

Jones’s last years were marred by severe physical back pain which prevented him from sitting down, so that his reading and writing had to be done in the upright position or lying prone on his stomach. Even so, he did not let it interrupt his 12-hour days. His collected poems were published as *Canu Arnaf* (“Singing me”) in two volumes in 1994 and 1995, and yet another as *OI Traed* (“Footprint”) in 2003. It was thus he served the language and literature of his country, and the God he revered above all else.

In one poem, he wrote: “Death, you’re afraid of me, because I’m young”.

**Prepared by Professor Meic Stephens FLSW**

## **Professor Vernon Morgan DSc FEng FCGI FIET FInstP FLSW (1941 – 2017)**

Professor Vernon Morgan obtained his BSc and MSc degrees at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, his PhD at Gonville and Caius College and the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge, and his DSc (Eng) at the University of Leeds. He held a University of Wales Fellowship at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge (1966-68), and a Harwell Fellowship (1968-70). In 1970 he was appointed to a faculty position at the University of Leeds, where he remained until joining Cardiff in 1985. He also spent time as a visiting scientist at the University of Aarhus, Denmark (1971), at Chalk River Nuclear Laboratory in Canada (1972 and 1974), and was a Visiting Professor at Cornell University (1978 and 1979), as well as a Visiting Associate (1980 and 1981).

At Cardiff University, in addition to being a Distinguished Research Professor, Vernon was Joint Director (with Robin Williams) of the Cardiff III-V Semiconductor and Microelectronics Centre and was a major force in developing this area of research at Cardiff University. His work laid the foundations for the University's recent emergence as a worldwide hub for compound semiconductors. He helped Mike Scott to establish the company Epitaxial Products International, the precursor to the world-renowned IQE, which has become Wales' largest home-grown PLC.

His research interests spanned the physics and technology of semiconductor materials, devices and integrated circuits, with particular emphasis on the use of gallium arsenide. This included ion implantation studies, metallisation systems, surface and defect characterisation, together with device simulation studies. He remained at the School of Engineering as a teacher and active researcher until his retirement in 2010, when he became an Honorary Distinguished Professor.

He acted as a consultant in microelectronics and semiconductor materials to various organisations in the UK, USA and Canada, and served on a number of committees and boards of the Institute of Physics, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Ministry of Defence and the Science and Engineering Research Council. He authored three text books and was a Joint Editor of the Wiley Series on Solid State Devices and Circuits (seven books), as well as editor of four research books on microwave devices and systems. He was the European and Founding Editor of the Wiley International Series on "Design and Measurement in Electronic Engineering" and an Editorial Advisor to Wiley on electronic materials and devices. He was Chairman to the IEE Books Publication Committee and a non-executive Director to IEE Publishing (1990-2002).

Under Vernon's leadership, Cardiff's School of Engineering became one of the foremost in the UK. He received a Fellowship in 2006 for research achievements from his alma mater The University of Wales, Aberystwyth, was Advisor to the MoD Defence Scientific Advisory Council on Electronic Materials, was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1996, was a Fellow of the City & Guilds Institute, a Fellow of the Royal Society for Arts, Vice President of the Institute of Physics (IOP) (1992-96), a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and a senior member of the IEEE (USA). Vernon also served as a Member of the UK government's 2001 and 2007 Research Assessment Exercise panels for Electrical and Electronic Engineering. In 2004 Vernon was awarded the Papal Cross by Pope John Paul II (Pro Ecclesia et Pontifica) for Distinguished Service to Higher Education.

After his retirement, Vernon was an active member of the South Wales Institute of Engineers and also an enthusiastic Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales (LSW). He was instrumental in the establishment of the Menalaus Medal for Engineering and Science awarded by the LSW and was also involved in the organisation of the prestigious Menalaus Memorial Lecture that takes place at Cardiff University every year.

Vernon will be sadly missed by all who knew him. This includes the many generations of undergraduate and postgraduate students whom he inspired, and the early career academics who he always found time to mentor. He is survived by wife Jean, daughter Suzanne, son Dyfrig, and their families.

**Prepared by Cardiff University**

## Professor Neil Reeve FLSW (1953 – 2018)

Professor Neil Reeve, who passed away on April 1 at the early age of sixty-four, was a highly distinguished editor of definitive editions of texts by D. H. Lawrence, Henry James and Thomas Hardy. Additionally he was a gifted critic of modern writers, and it was characteristic of his own conspicuous modesty that he particularly favoured unfashionable authors, such as Elizabeth Bowen and Rex Warner, who had been sidelined in contemporary studies. His subtle, fastidiously discriminating literary intelligence meant that he was exceptionally suited to explicating particularly difficult contemporary texts, such as the poetry of his former tutor J. H. Prynne.

Having trained at Cambridge, where he had enjoyed a stellar undergraduate and postgraduate career, Neil joined the staff of the Department of English at the then University College of Swansea in 1989. A devoted teacher, he was always aware of the privilege of helping others to appreciate how great works of literature could provide unique illuminations of the human condition.

It was his misfortune to have spent the latter years of his career in an HE environment he found increasingly uncongenial, as authentic literary study was progressively devalued and slighted. But despite becoming thoroughly unillusioned he strove never to become wholly disillusioned. And although he had no respect for the educational attitudes, managerial imperatives and political prejudices underlying the Research Assessment Exercise, he oversaw the preparations for the exercise at Swansea with almost obsessive dedication, knowing, as Head of Department, that his colleagues' very future depended on it. Accordingly, under his leadership, the English Department at Swansea outperformed every other in Wales in the 2014 exercise, and excelled even those of Oxford and Cambridge. And in the 'Impact' category, the Department was one of a mere handful in the whole of the UK to be awarded maximum marks.

Neil was gentle, lovable, courteous, quiet, reserved, highly talented, loyal, sensitive, principled - and exasperating. Exasperating because, in an age where image is all, and self-promotion everything, Neil remained reluctant even to identify with his own best qualities, let alone to draw those to the attention of others. A man of natural dignity and some elegance (as a young man he seemed the academic equivalent of the England cricketer David Gower), and blessed with a quiet wit and wry humour, he was immensely proud of having been elected a Fellow of the Learned Society of his adopted country. We as a fellowship are substantially diminished by his passing.

**Prepared by Yr Athro M. Wynn Thomas OBE FEA FLSW FBA**

**Lord Stewart Sutherland of Houndwood KT FBA FRSE HonFLSW (25 February 1941 - 29 January 2018)**

When Stewart Sutherland heard that the Learned Society was minded to offer him an Honorary Fellowship, he expressed unfeigned pleasure. His acceptance was in turn warmly welcomed by the Fellowship. The part Wales played in his multi-faceted life was small but to him not insignificant. It was in 1965, as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at what was then the University College of North Wales that he started on his illustrious academic career. He gave informal advice, on occasion, to various universities in Wales and was fitting that the University of Wales awarded him an Honorary Doctorate (as many other universities did). Recognition by the Learned Society, in a sense, brought full circle to his academic life.

Born in Aberdeenshire, his father was a drapery salesman and his mother a department store worker. He attended Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen and then proceeded to take First Class Honours in Philosophy at the city's university. This was followed by a focus on the Philosophy of Religion at Cambridge where he was strongly influenced by Donald McKinnon – much later jointly editing a volume in his honour. He remained at Bangor for three years before moving to the new University of Stirling where he established a Department of Religious Studies. The next phase of his career took him to King's College, University of London, initially as Professor of the History and Philosophy of Religion. Never wishing to be called a theologian, his exploration of religion, ethics and philosophy can be best seen in *God, Jesus and Belief: The Legacy of Theism* (1984). It was already apparent, however, that his intellectual capacity was matched by organizational efficiency and administrative ability. He became Vice-Principal of the college in 1981 and Principal in 1985. Five years later he became Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, charged with the responsibility of sustaining a continuing sense of common purpose amongst its member institutions at a time when that was not always apparent.

Awareness of his ability spread beyond the academic world. To the surprise of some, in 1992 he accepted the post of Chief Inspector of Schools, that is to say Head of Ofsted, the new body which in England did away with the system of HMIs. It was a venerable system but, expressed in the jargon then flowing freely, one deemed by government to be no longer fit for purpose. It fell to Sutherland to steer a new system of school inspection into existence. His undoubted academic status helped him navigate his way through many political and professional difficulties. He did not claim that the replacement he oversaw was without flaws. In any case, he did not suppose that Ofsted would occupy the rest of his life.

In 1994 he was brought back to Scotland as Principal of the University of Edinburgh where, with quiet but determined authority, he did what he could to bring fresh vigour to its academic life and international standing. Needless to say, the political mood in Scotland was not that of his youth and a returning native is not always welcomed uncritically. He had been elected to the Fellowship of the British Academy in 1992 but it was not until 1995 that the Royal Society of Edinburgh followed suit. Sutherland held to his course in the university with humour and reason. In 2002, he became that Society's President on his retirement from the university. In that capacity he gave advice to this writer at a time when the idea of a comparable body was being mooted in Wales. When, subsequently, the Learned Society of Wales did come into existence, the relationship with the Royal Society of Edinburgh has been a source of encouragement and support.

Sutherland was knighted in 1995 and created a Life Peer in 2001 (sitting in the House of Lords as a crossbencher). That might be thought simply to reflect his standing in, and contribution to, many fields of education. His service, however, went wider. The longer term care of older people, a constantly growing number, is universally recognized across all political parties to be a major problem in our society: how should it be provided and funded? In 1997 Sutherland accepted the chairmanship of a Royal Commission appointed to investigate the problem and point the way forward. In this role his skill as a chairman blended with a personal commitment. No government, however, seems able to discover a consensual solution and implement it. Sutherland's commission, though diligent and penetrating, was not itself in full internal agreement and, in the event, the Report gathered dust, though in the House of Lords and elsewhere, Sutherland continued to press his case. His own death, from cancer, came too early. Latterly, the Scottish government did implement some of the commission's proposals. Social questions of this kind continued to engage him to the end (for example, recently chairing a House of Lords committee investigating affordable child care).

Such public activity, however, should not lead to the conclusion that his interest in and commitment to higher education faded away. He was Provost of Gresham's College from 2002 to 2008 and continued to lecture and write, though his pattern of activities meant that the volume of his writing (though not its quality) was not as great as it might have been. On another front, he was the only man, it is believed, to have served on the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the equivalent body for Hong Kong. His reputation in these matters was global.

Many words have been written, and will continue to be written, about the relationship between academic excellence and the needs of society. If one wants a case-study of commitment and achievement across boundaries one could not do better than study and admire the life of Stewart Sutherland.

**Prepared by Professor Keith Robbins DLitt FRSE FRHistS FLSW**