

The Presidents of the Chemical Society & Royal Society of Chemistry (1841–2024)



Contents

Introduction	04
Chemical Society Presidents (1841–1980)	07
Royal Society of Chemistry Presidents (1980–2024)	34
Researching Past Presidents	45
Presidents by Date	47

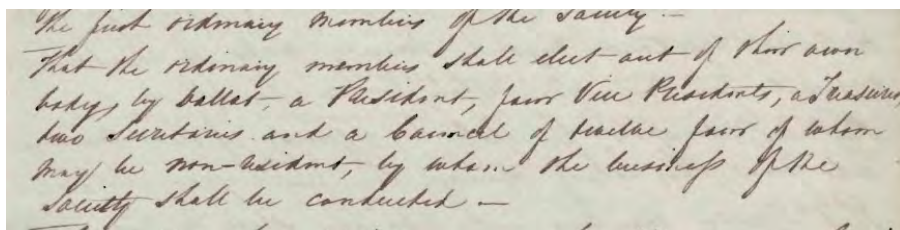
Introduction



On Tuesday 23 February 1841, a meeting was convened by Robert Warington that resolved to form a society of members interested in the advancement of chemistry. On 30 March, the 77 men who'd already leant their support met at what would be the Chemical Society's first official meeting; at that meeting, Thomas Graham was unanimously elected to be the Society's first president.

The other main decision made at the 30 March meeting was on the system by which the Chemical Society would be organised:

"That the ordinary members shall elect out of their own body, by ballot, a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, and a Council of twelve, four of whom may be non-resident, by whom the business of the Society shall be conducted."



At the first Annual General Meeting the following year, in March 1842, the Bye Laws were formally enshrined, and the 'Duty of the President' was stated:

"To preside at all Meetings of the Society and Council. To take the Chair at all ordinary Meetings of the Society, at eight o'clock precisely, and to regulate the order of the proceedings.

A Member shall not be eligible as President of the Society for more than two years in succession, but shall be re-eligible after the lapse of one year."

Little has changed in the way presidents are elected; they still have to be a member of the Society and are elected by other members. However, nowadays the candidates undergo greater scrutiny; after the nominations have been called and received, they are evaluated by the Nominations Committee. The committee produces a list of candidates who meet the requirements of the role descriptor, who can demonstrate the requisite skills and experience to fulfil the role and who confirm their willingness to serve in this way. Successful candidates are then put forward for election.

The president is elected biennially by the membership, they then serve two years as president elect then two years as president. Their time of office starts from the Royal Society of Chemistry's Annual General Meeting held in July.

In 1841, the number of Fellows was 77; in 2022, membership had grown to 50,000. At the first meeting, votes were cast in person; today, votes are cast online.

The Presidents in brief:

- The youngest was Thomas Graham who was 35 when he became president
- Two fathers and sons have been president: Edward Frankland (16th) and Percy Faraday Frankland (37th), William Henry Perkin (23rd) and William Henry Perkin Jnr. (38th)
- Four men were president of the Chemical Society twice: Thomas Graham (1st and 3rd), William Miller (8th and 13th), Alexander Williamson (12th and 15th) and Warren de la Rue (14th and 20th)
- There are eight Nobel Laureates among the past presidents: Sir William Ramsay (1904), Sir Walter Norman Haworth (1937), Sir Robert Robinson (1947), Sir Cyril Norman Hinshelwood (1956), Lord Alexander Todd (1957), Lord George Porter (1967), Sir Derek Barton (1969), Sir Harry Kroto (1996)
- One president resigned (for health reasons), Professor Arthur Crossley in 1926
- Two presidents died in office, Professor James Philip in 1941 and Professor John Purnell in 1996
- Sir Ewart Ray Herbert Jones was president of both the Chemical Society (64th) and the Royal Society of Chemistry (1st)
- The first woman president was Professor Lesley Yellowlees in 2012

Notes:

1. In 1980, the Royal Society of Chemistry was formed with the amalgamation of the Chemical Society, the Society for Analytical Chemistry, the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Faraday Society. Each Society represented a different aspect of the chemical profession, though it was very common for people to be members of more than one Society, each Society had its own president. This booklet only includes the presidents of the Chemical Society and then the Royal Society of Chemistry in order to provide a more linear history of the Society. Future versions could include the presidents of the other societies, until then, their names are listed at the back of the booklet.
2. In order to demonstrate the length of time both Societies have existed, some historic milestones are included to show how far we've come in the areas of science & technology and in the representation of diverse groups within society at large and within the Societies themselves.
3. Some of the information in this introduction was taken from 'The Chemical Society 1841–1941' by Tom Sidney Moore and James Charles Philip. Philip was president of the Chemical Society at the time and had written four chapters of this book by the time of his death in 1941; his widow sent the manuscript to the Chemical Society who engaged the services of Moore to complete it.
4. The achievements and appointments for each president are based on editorial decisions and are not meant to be an exhaustive list. In addition, whilst every effort has been made to thoroughly fact-check the contents of this brochure, there may be some disputable points. Please submit any suggested corrections or amendments to library@rsc.org

Chemical Society Presidents (1841–1980)



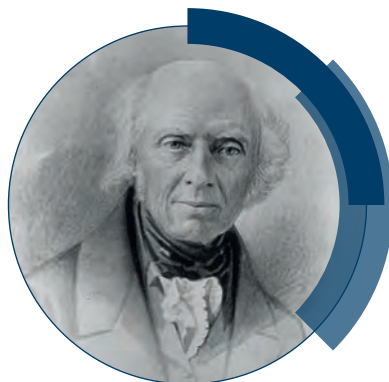
1 1841-1843



Professor Thomas Graham
(1805-1869)

- Born in Glasgow
- Twice president of the Chemical Society (1st and 3rd)
- A founder member of the Chemical Society
- His studies on the diffusion of gases resulted in 'Graham's Law'
- Last person to hold the office of 'Master of the Mint' after which the role was amalgamated into the office of the Chancellor of the Exchequer

2 1843-1845



Arthur Aiken
(1773-1854)

- Born in Warrington
- A founder member (and first treasurer) of the Chemical Society
- Studied under Joseph Priestley
- Lectured on chemistry at Guy's Hospital for 32 years
- One of the founders of the Geological Society of London in 1807

24 May 1844 | The first telegraph message sent, by Samuel Morse from Washington to Baltimore

3 1845-1847



Professor Thomas Graham
(1805-1869)

- See entry for 1st president

16 October 1846 | William Morton is the first person to successfully demonstrate anaesthesia

4 1847-1849



Professor William Brande
(1788-1866)

- Born in St James's, London
- A founder member of the Chemical Society
- Son of a former apothecary to George III
- Lectured with Faraday for 20 years
- Superintendent of the Coining and Die Department at the Royal Mint

1847 | Baron Lionel Nathan de Rothschild became the UK's first Jewish MP. However, he was unable to take his seat until 1858 when the requirement to swear the Christian oath was lifted

5 1849-1851



Professor Richard Phillips
(1778-1851)

- Born in the City of London
- A founder member of the Chemical Society
- Dr Thomas Thomson pronounced him one of the first modern analytical chemists
- Lectured in chemistry at the London Hospital, at the Royal Military College Sandhurst and at St Thomas's Hospital
- Curator of the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street

1849 | Pfizer founded by Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart in Brooklyn, New York

6 1851-1853



Professor Charles Daubeny
(1795-1867)

- Born in Stratton, Gloucestershire
- A founder member of the Chemical Society
- President of the British Association
- Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oxford
- Chemist, botanist and geologist
- Has a type of waterlily named after him, *Nymphaea Daubenyana*
- Lived in the Oxford Physic (now Botanic) Garden. After transforming it, he opened it up to the public

7 1853-1855



Colonel Philip James Yorke
(1799-1874)

- Born in England
- A founder member of the Chemical Society
- Appointed Colonel during the Crimean War
- Chemist and mineralogist

1854 | An epidemic of cholera in London killed 500 people in 10 days. Dr John Snow traced the source to a single water pump in Soho, half a mile from Burlington House

8 1855-1857



Professor William Allen Miller
(1817-1870)

- Born in Ipswich
- A founder member of the Chemical Society
- Twice president of the Chemical Society (8th and 13th)
- Received a Gold Medal from the Royal Astronomical Society for his work, with William Huggins, in their attempts to identify the elements in stars using spectral analysis
- The Miller crater on the southern part of the moon was named after him in 1935

1856 | William Perkin invented Mauveine, the first synthetic dye

9 1857-1859



Lord Lyon Playfair
(1818-1898)

- Born in Meerut, India
- A founder member of the Chemical Society
- Studied under and became lab assistant to Thomas Graham
- Fellow student of David Livingstone
- Studied under Justus Liebig at Giessen; undertook research alongside Robert Bunsen
- Chemist to the Geological Survey
- Oversaw the Chemical Society's move from Cavendish Square to Burlington House
- MP for Leeds South from 1868 and ennobled as Baron Playfair upon leaving the House of Commons in 1892

10 1859–1861



Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie (1817–1880)

- Born in Sackville Street, Piccadilly
- His father was Britain's leading surgeon and president of the Royal Society
- Studied under Justus Liebig at Giessen
- Did original analysis of beeswax for which he was given a Fellowship of the Royal Society

1859 | The publication of Charles Darwin's 'The Origin of the Species'

11 1861–1863



Professor August Wilhelm von Hofmann (1818–1892)

- Born in Giessen, Germany
- Studied under Justus Liebig at Giessen
- His research on aniline, with Sir William Henry Perkin, helped lay the basis of the aniline-dye industry
- First Director of the Royal College of Chemistry, London
- After his presidency, and inspired by the success of the Chemical Society, he returned to Germany and in 1867 was co-founder of the German Chemical Society (GDCh)

12 1863–1865



Professor Alexander William Williamson (1824–1904)

- Born in Wandsworth, London
- Studied under Leopold Gmelin at Heidelberg and Liebig at Giessen
- Twice president of the Chemical Society (12th and 15th)
- In 1863, five students from the Choshu Clan in Japan came to London to study under his guidance
- Was blind in his right eye and semi-paralysed in his left arm
- Developed the theory of etherification

1864 | Louis Pasteur invents the Pasteurisation process

13 1865-1867



Professor William Allen Miller
(1817-1870)

- See entry for 8th president

31 January 1865 | The 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States is passed by Congress

14 1867-1869



Dr Warren de la Rue
(1815-1889)

- Born in Guernsey
- Twice president of the Chemical Society (14th and 20th)
- A founder member of the Chemical Society
- Pioneer in astronomical photography. In July 1860, he travelled to Rivabellosa in Spain to photograph the solar eclipse using the Kew Photoheliograph and made the first lunar stereograph images
- The De La Rue crater on the north-east of the moon is named after him
- His father, Thomas, founded the DeLaRue company

15 1869-1871



Professor Alexander William Williamson
(1824-1904)

- See entry for 12th president

1869 | Dmitri Mendeleev published his periodic table

16 1871–1873



Sir Edward Frankland (1825–1899)

- Born in Churchtown, near Lancaster
- First president of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1877–1880)
- Became the first Professor of Chemistry at Owen's College, Manchester (1851)
- Father of Percy Frankland (37th president)
- Originated the concept of combining power (valence) in chemistry
- One of the originators of organometallic chemistry
- Discovered (and named) helium with Sir Norman Lockyer and Pierre Jules Cesar Janssen

1872–1876 | HMS Challenger undertakes the world's first large-scale oceanographic expedition

17 1873–1875



Professor William Odling (1829–1921)

- Born in Southwark, London
- Fullerian Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1883–1888)
- Contributed to the development of the Periodic Table
- Studied medicine at Guy's Hospital and later became a demonstrator there

18 June 1873 | Alice Vickery became the first woman in the UK to qualify as a chemist and druggist

18 1875–1877



Sir Frederick Augustus Abel (1827–1902)

- Born in London
- One of the original 26 students at the Royal College of Chemistry when it first opened in 1845
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1880–1883)
- An expert in the field of explosives; in 1889, he invented Cordite with Sir James Dewar
- President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers

10 March 1876 | Alexander Graham Bell made the first successful telephone call

19 1877-1879



Professor John Hall Gladstone
(1827-1902)

- Born in Hackney, London
- In 1844, was one of the 12 men, with George Williams, at the founding meeting of the YMCA in London
- Studied under Thomas Graham at University College and then under Liebig at Giessen
- First president of the Physical Society (now the Institute of Physics) in 1874
- An original Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry
- Sat on the Royal Commission on Lighthouses
- His daughter, Margaret MacDonald had a statue erected in her honour for her work on social reform near her home in Lincoln's Inn Fields where she'd lived with her husband Ramsay MacDonald
- Closely related to Lord Kelvin, by marriage
- Lecturer on Chemistry at St Thomas's Hospital
- Fullerian Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution

1877 | Thomas Edison invented the phonograph

20 1879-1880



Dr Warren de la Rue
(1815-1889)

- See entry for 15th president

April 1879 | Publication of the first issue of the Journal of the American Chemical Society

21 1880–1882



Sir Henry Enfield Roscoe (1833–1915)

- Born in London
- The mineral Roscoelite is named after him
- Studied and worked with Bunsen
- MP for Manchester South (1885–1895)
- Professor of Chemistry at Owen's College, Manchester
- Noted for his work on vanadium and photochemical studies
- Uncle of Beatrix Potter
- President of the Society of Chemical Industry

27 January 1880 | Thomas Edison received the patent for the incandescent light bulb

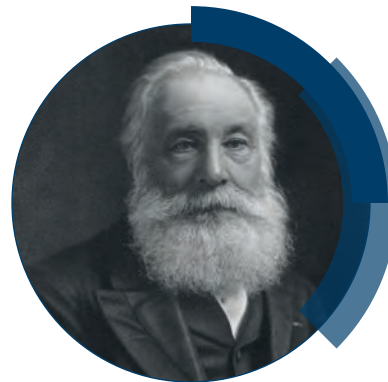
22 1882–1883



Sir Joseph Henry Gilbert (1817–1901)

- Born in Hull
- Studied under Liebig at Giessen
- Worked at the University of Glasgow under Thomas Thomson
- Established Rothamsted Experimental Station in 1843, with Sir John Bennet Lawes

23 1883–1885

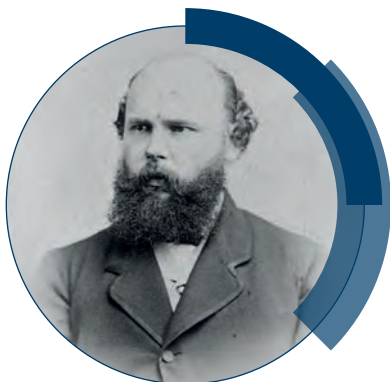


Sir William Henry Perkin (1838–1907)

- Born in London
- Studied chemistry under and later worked with Professor Hofmann
- Discovered Mauveine, the first aniline dye (at age 18) which later led to the foundation of the coal-tar colour industry
- Father of Sir William Henry Perkin Jnr. (38th president)
- President of the Faraday Society, 1907 (died in office)

July 1885 | Louis Pasteur developed the first successful vaccine against rabies

24 1885–1887



Dr Hugo Müller
(1833–1915)

- Born in Tirschenreuth, Bavaria
- Studied chemistry, physics, mineralogy and geology
- Assistant to Justus Liebig
- Invited to London by Professor Hofmann and became private assistant to Warren de la Rue
- Worked at Messrs. De La Rue & Co. helping to develop the lithographic colour printing for stamps
- Resigned as a Fellow of the Chemical Society in 1915 due to his nationality, stating that 'it is not desirable for a person in my position to be a member or to take any part in the affairs, of any public concern or enterprise.'

29 January 1886 | Karl Benz patented his 'vehicle powered by a gas engine.'

25 1887–1889



Sir William Crookes
(1832–1919)

- Born in Regent Street, London
- Studied under, then assisted, Professor Hofmann at the Royal College of Chemistry
- Pioneer of vacuum tubes
- Invented the Crookes Tube and the Crookes Radiometer
- Discovered the element Thallium in 1861
- Founder and editor of 'Chemical News'

1888 | John J. Loud patented the ballpoint pen

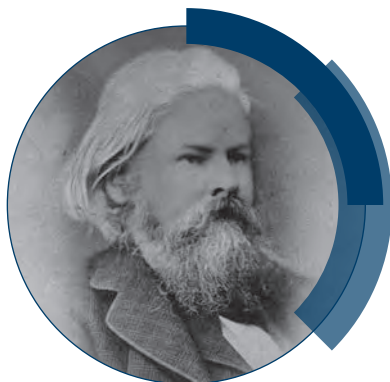
26 1889–1891



Dr William James Russell
(1830–1909)

- Born in Gloucester
- The first Demonstrator in Chemistry at Owen's College, Manchester
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1894–1897), and original Fellow
- It was at Dr Russell's suggestion in 1882 that Council decided to 'institute a series of permanent carbon photographs of all the Past Presidents of the [Chemical] Society, and strongly recommend that the series be continued in the future.'

27 1891–1893



Professor Alexander Crum Brown
(1838–1922)

- Born in Edinburgh
- The first candidate to be awarded the Doctorate of Science from London University in 1862
- Worked under Bunsen at Heidelberg then with Kolbe at Marburg
- Professor of chemistry and chemical pharmacy at the University of Edinburgh
- Taught James Dewar and Prafulla Chandra Ray (the father of Indian chemistry)
- Had a lifelong fascination for knitting having invented a knitting machine as a child, in later life he knitted mathematical models of interlocking surfaces

6 July 1892 | Dadabhai Naoroji became the UK's first Asian MP

28 1893–1895



Professor Henry Edward Armstrong
(1848–1937)

- Born in Lewisham, London
- Studied under Edward Frankland
- At the Royal College of Chemistry developed a method of determining organic impurities in drinking water
- A pioneer in organic crystallography
- A member of Chemical Society council from the age of 25 until his death

19 September 1893 | New Zealand became the first country in the world to enact women's suffrage

29 1895–1897



Professor Augustus George Vernon Harcourt (1834–1919)

- Born in Chelsea, London
- Sir Benjamin Brodie was Harcourt's mentor at Christ Church, Oxford
- Became a friend of Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) whilst at Oxford; Harcourt is believed to have been an inspiration for the White Knight in 'Alice Through the Looking Glass'
- Taught at Christ Church, Oxford
- One of the first scientists to do quantitative work in the field of chemical kinetics
- Invented the Harcourt Chloroform Regulator and the Harcourt Pentane-air Lamp

1896 | Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity

30 1897-1899



Sir James Dewar
(1842-1923)

- Born in Kincardine, Scotland
- Chemist and physicist
- Taught by, and later became assistant to, Lyon Playfair
- Invented the Dewar Flask (Thermos)
- Developed Cordite with Frederick Abel
- Has a crater on the far side of the Moon named after him

1898 | William Ramsay and Morris Travers discovered neon

31 1899-1901



Sir Thomas Edward Thorpe
(1845-1925)

- Born in Manchester
- Assistant to Henry Roscoe
- Professor of Chemistry at Anderson's University, Glasgow
- Designed the Government Laboratory at Clement's Inn in his role as Director
- Invented the phrase 'Motor Spirit' for David Lloyd George's introduction of a tax on petrol in 1909

32 1901-1903



Professor James Emerson Reynolds
(1844-1920)

- Born in Dublin
- Professor of Chemistry at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin
- Chair of Chemistry at Trinity College, Dublin
- Discovered Thiocarbamide in 1869

10 December 1901 | First Nobel Prizes awarded

33 1903–1905



Sir William Augustus Tilden
(1842–1926)

- Born in London
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1891–1894)
- Dean of the Royal College of Science
- Discovered that Isoprene (a precursor to synthetic rubber) could be made from Turpentine

17 December 1903 | First controlled flight, by Orville & Wilbur Wright

18 May 1904 | Marie Curie admitted as the first female Honorary and Foreign Fellow of the Chemical Society

34 1905–1907



Professor Raphael Meldola
(1849–1915)

- Born in Islington, London
- Son of the Chief Rabbi of London
- Assistant to Joseph Norman Lockyer
- In April 1875, he took charge of the Royal Society eclipse expedition to Camorta in the Nicobar Islands
- President of the Society of Chemical Industry (1908–1909)
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1912–1915)
- Discovered the dye ‘Meldola Blue’

1905 | Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity published

35 1907-1909

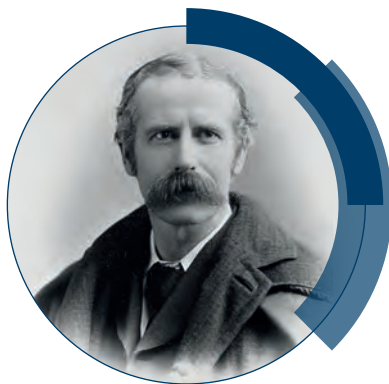


Sir William Ramsay
(1852-1916)

- Born in Glasgow
- Worked under Bunsen at Heidelberg
- Professor of Chemistry at UCL
- Isolated argon, helium, neon, krypton and xenon
- Original Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1904 'In recognition of his services in the discovery of the inert gaseous elements in air, and his determination of their place in the periodic system'

1907 | Karl M. Baer, from Germany, became one of the first trans people to gain full legal recognition of their gender identity

36 1909-1911



Professor Harold Baily Dixon (1852-1930)

- Born in Marylebone, London
- Studied under Augustus George Vernon Harcourt at Christ Church, Oxford
- Amateur footballer; in 1873, played as a forward for Oxford University AFC in the second ever FA Cup Final, against Wanderers. They lost 2-0
- Professor of Chemistry at Owens College Manchester
- Worked at Balliol College, Oxford and advocated for the admission of women chemistry students to his lectures, this was accepted in 1886
- Specialised in the rate of explosion in gases, working with the Home Office during the First World War
- President of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society (1923-1925)

37 1911-1913



Professor Percy Faraday Frankland
(1858-1946)

- Born in London
- Son of Sir Edward Frankland (16th president)
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1906-1909)
- Professor of Chemistry in the University of Birmingham
- Served on a number of boards during the First World War including the Admiralty Inventions Board and the Anti-Gas and Chemical Warfare Committee

1911 | Ernest Rutherford identified the atomic nucleus using a 'scattering' experiment

1911 | Marie Curie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize for Chemistry

38 1913–1915



Sir William Henry Perkin Jnr. (1860–1929)

- Born in Sudbury, Middlesex
- Son of Sir William Henry Perkin (23rd president)
- Worked under Adolf von Baeyer in Munich
- Professor of Chemistry at Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh
- Professor of Organic Chemistry at Manchester University

10 November 1913 | John Archer was elected Mayor of Battersea, the first black person to hold senior public office in London

39 1915–1917



Dr Alexander Scott (1853–1947)

- Born in Selkirk, Scotland
- Conducted an inquiry into the conditions of objects at the British Museum that were said to have deteriorated after being stored in the London Underground during the First World War
- Established and became Director of British Museum Laboratory
- In 1923, visited Luxor and worked with Howard Carter to advise on the preservation of the Tut-ankh-Amun relics

1916 | St. Elmo Brady became the first African American to attain a PhD in chemistry in the United States, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

40 1917–1919



Sir William Jackson Pope (1870–1939)

- Born in London
- Professor of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge
- Worked closely with Henry Armstrong
- President of the Society of Chemical Industry (1920–1921)
- President of IUPAC (1922–1925)

6 February 1918 | The Representation of the People Act gave all men and some women the right to vote in the UK

December 1918 | Constance Markievicz became the first woman elected as an MP but, as a member of Sinn Fein, did not take her seat

41 1919-1921



Sir James Johnston Dobbie (1852-1924)

- Born in Glasgow
- Director of the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh
- Worked on the Research Committee of the War Cabinet and the Nitrogen Products Committee during the First World War
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1915-1918)

1920 | Women are admitted for the first time as Fellows of the Chemical Society

42 1921-1923



Sir James Walker (1863-1935)

- Born in Dundee
- Studied under, and later worked with, Alexander Crum-Brown at the University of Edinburgh and F.W. Ostwald in Leipzig
- Manager of H.M. Factory, Craigleith during the First World War
- Professor of Chemistry in University College, Dundee then at the University of Edinburgh

26 November 1922 | Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon enter the antechamber of Tut-ankh-Amun's tomb

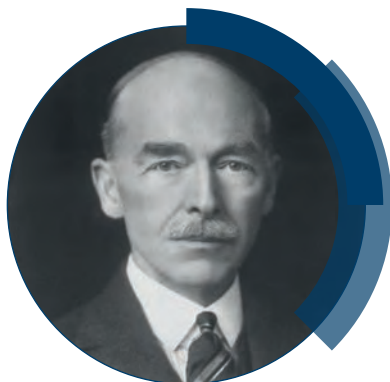
43 1923-1925



Professor William Palmer Wynne (1861-1950)

- Born in Stafford
- Private research assistant to Henry Armstrong
- Undertook researches on the chemistry of naphthalene
- Dean of the Faculty of Science in the University of Sheffield

44 1925–1926



Professor Arthur William Crossley
(1869–1927)

- Born in Accrington
- Professor of Organic Chemistry at Kings College London
- During the First World War, acted as Secretary to the Advisory Committee of the Chemical Warfare Service and later as Lieut.-Colonel R.E. in charge of the new experimental station in Porton
- Resigned as president of the Chemical Society early due to ill health

45 1926–1928



Professor Herbert Brereton Baker
(1862–1935)

- Born in Blackburn
- Taught by, and then became assistant to, Harold Baily Dixon at Balliol College, Oxford
- Director of the Chemistry Department at Imperial College
- Discovered a compound to absorb the phosgene deployed by the Germans in their poison gas attacks in the First World War, the helmet was known as the 'Phenate Helmet'

26 January 1926 | John Logie Baird gave the world's first public demonstration of television

46 1928–1931



Sir Jocelyn Field Thorpe (1872–1940)

- Born in London
- Worked under Professor William Perkin Jnr. at Owen's College, Manchester
- During the First World War was a member of the Chemical Defence Committee
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1933–1936)
- Discovered the Thorpe Reaction and the Thorpe-Ingold Effect

1928 | The Equalities Franchise Act in the UK gave women the same voting rights as men

28 September 1928 | Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin

47 1931-1933



Professor George Gerald Henderson
(1862-1942)

- Born in Glasgow
- Regius Professor of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow
- An authority on the chemistry of terpene hydrocarbons, sesquiterpene chemistry and the chemistry of India rubber, balata, and gutta-percha
- President of the Society of Chemical Industry (1914)
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1924-1927)

48 1933-1935



Sir Gilbert Thomas Morgan (1870-1940)

- Born in Essendon, Hertfordshire
- Assistant to William Tilden at the Royal College of Science, London
- Mason Professor of Chemistry at the University of Birmingham
- Associate Member of the Chemical Warfare Committee during the First World War

1935 | Dorothy Hodgkin published her first paper as sole author, 'X-Ray Single Crystal Photographs of Insulin'

49 1935-1937



Professor Nevil Vincent Sidgwick
(1873-1952)

- Born in Oxford
- Nephew of Sir Benjamin Brodie
- Consultant at the Dept. of Explosive Supplies of the Ministry of Munitions during the First World War
- President of the Faraday Society (1932-1934)

12 April 1937 | Frank Whittle conducts the first ground test of the jet engine

50 1937–1939



**Sir Frederick
George Donnan**
(1870–1956)

- Born in Columbo, Sri Lanka
- Blind in one eye as the result of a childhood accident
- A pupil of Sir William Ramsay
- President of the Faraday Society (1924–1926), and founder member
- The Donnan Equilibrium is named after him (aka The Gibbs-Donnan Effect)

51 1939–1941



Sir Robert Robinson
(1886–1975)

- Born in Rufford, Derbyshire
- Appointed the first Professor of Pure and Applied Organic Chemistry in the University of Sydney
- Nobel Prize for Chemistry (1947) 'for his investigations on plant products of biological importance, especially the alkaloids'
- Known for the development of organic synthesis
- Discovered the molecular structures of morphine and strychnine

7 January 1939 | Marguerite Perey discovered the element Francium, the last naturally occurring element to be discovered

52 1941



**Professor James
Charles Philip**
(1873–1941)

- Born in Fordoun, Scotland
- Professor of Physical Chemistry at Imperial College
- Proposed a resolution on 8 May 1919 at an EGM of the Chemical Society 'That women should be admitted to the Society on the same terms of men'. The resolution passed and women were admitted as Fellows the following year
- President of the Society of Chemical Industry
- Died in office, six months after becoming president of the Chemical Society

53 1941-1944



William Hobson Mills (1873-1959)

- Born in London
- Friend and colleague of Nevil Sidgwick
- Worked as a demonstrator for Sir James Dewar
- Lecturer at Jesus College, Cambridge
- Married fellow chemist Mildred May Gostling. In 1904, she was one of the 19 female chemists to sign a letter to the Chemical Society requesting that women be accepted as Fellows

54 1944-1946



Sir Walter Norman Haworth (1883-1950)

- Born in Chorley
- Senior Demonstrator under Sir Edward Thorpe at Imperial College
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1937) 'for his investigations on carbohydrates and vitamin C'
- Married Violet Chilton Dobbie, the daughter of Sir James Dobbie
- Developed the Haworth Projection, a method for representing the three-dimensional structure of sugar on paper

13 June 1946 | Alan Turing was awarded the Order of the British Empire insignia of the Fourth Class (OBE) for his work at Bletchley Park during the Second World War

55 1946-1948



Sir Cyril Norman Hinshelwood (1897-1967)

- Born in London
- Worked on the Chemical Defence Board of the Ministry of Supply during the Second World War
- President of the Royal Society
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1956); awarded jointly with Nikolay Nikolaevich Semenov 'for their researches into the mechanism of chemical reactions'
- President of the Faraday Society (1961-1962)

1947 | Marie Maynard Daly became the first African American woman to attain a PhD in chemistry, from Columbia University

56 1948–1950



**Sir Ian Morris
Heilbron (1886–1959)**

- Born in Glasgow
- Assistant Director of Supplies in Greece for the army during the First World War, gained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel
- Was a scientific advisor at the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Production during the Second World War
- Emeritus Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of London

October 1950 | Alan Turing introduces 'The Turing Test' for artificial intelligence in his paper 'Computing Machinery and Intelligence'

57 1950–1952



**Sir Eric Keightley
Rideal (1890–1974)**

- Born in Sydenham
- Studied for his PhD under Professor Anschutz in Bonn
- During the First World War, worked with Edward Harrison on the development of the gas respirator. He also went to the Somme to supervise the water supplies to the Australian troops
- President of the Faraday Society (1938–1945)
- President of the Society of Chemical Industry (1945–1946)

1950 | Ralph Bunche became the first black person to win a Nobel Prize (for peace)

58 1952–1954



**Sir Christopher Kelk
Ingold (1893–1970)**

- Born in Forest Gate, London
- One of the founders of the electronic theory of organic chemistry
- Worked with Jocelyn Field Thorpe at Imperial College
- Lecturer in Organic Chemistry at Imperial College then Professor of Chemistry at UCL

1953 | James Watson, Francis Crick, Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin discovered the structure of DNA

59 1954-1956



Professor William Wardlaw (1892-1958)

- Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne
- During the Second World War he was joint secretary of the War Cabinet Scientific Advisory Committee
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1957-1958)
- Worked under Percy Faraday Frankland
- Professor at Birkbeck College London

60 1956-1958



Sir Edmund Langley Hirst (1898-1975)

- Born in Preston
- Professor of Organic Chemistry at Bristol University
- Served on several committees of the Ministry of Supply during the Second World War
- Dean of Science at Edinburgh

4 October 1957 | Launch of Sputnik 1

61 1958-1960



Professor Harry Julius Emeleus (1903-1993)

- Born in London
- Seconded to the Manhattan Project at Oak Ridge, US during the Second World War for work on uranium hexafluoride
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1963-1965)
- Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at Cambridge University

62 1960–1962



Lord Alexander Robertus Todd
(1907–1997)

- Born in Glasgow
- Nobel Prize for Chemistry (1957) ‘for his work on nucleotides and nucleotide co-enzymes’
- President of IUPAC
- President of the British Association
- Was made Baron Todd of Trumpington in 1962

12 April 1961 | Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space

63 1962–1964



Professor John Monteath Robertson
(1900–1989)

- Born in Auchterarder, Scotland
- Gained international recognition for his pioneering research on the elucidation of molecular structure by X-ray diffraction
- Scientific advisor to the Royal Air Force during the Second World War
- Gardiner Chair of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow (1942–1970)

16 June 1963 | Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to travel in space

28 August 1963 | Martin Luther King Jnr. gave his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC

64 1964–1966



Sir Ewart Ray Herbert Jones
(1911–2002)

- Born in Wrexham
- Was a Gas Officer in London during the Second World War
- Waynflete Professor of Chemistry at Oxford University
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1970–1972)
- 64th president of the Chemical Society and first president of the Royal Society of Chemistry

1964 | Dorothy Hodgkin became the first British woman to win a Nobel Prize (in Chemistry)

65 1966–1968



Sir Harry Work Melville
(1908–2000)

- Born in Edinburgh
- Scientific Advisor to the Chief Superintendent of Chemical Defence during the Second World War
- President of the Faraday Society (1958 and 1960)
- Professor of Chemistry at the University of Aberdeen
- Chairman of the Science Research Council
- Principal of Queen Mary College, University of London

27 July 1967 | The Sexual Offences Act partially decriminalised homosexuality in England and Wales

66 1968–1970



Sir Ronald Sydney Nyholm
(1917–1971)

- Born in Broken Hill, Australia
- President of the Royal Society of New South Wales (1954)
- Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at UCL
- Played a leading role in the launch of 'Education in Chemistry'

28 June 1969 | Riots following a police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City act as the catalyst for the global gay rights movement

20 July 1969 | Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the moon

67 1970–1972



Lord George Porter
(1920–2002)

- Born in Stainforth, Yorkshire
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1967) jointly awarded to Ronald Norrish and Porter ‘for their studies of extremely fast chemical reactions, effected by disturbing the equilibrium by means of very short pulses of energy’
- The first to detect the triplet state by flash photolysis
- Director of the Royal Institution
- Baron Porter of Luddenham

November 1971 | Intel releases the world’s first microprocessor, the 4004

68 1972–1973



Lord Frederick Sydney Dainton
(1914–1997)

- Born in Sheffield
- President of the Faraday Society (1965–1966)
- Chancellor of the University of Sheffield
- Chair of Physical Chemistry at Leeds
- Author of The Dainton Report on secondary schools in the UK
- Chairman of the British Library Board
- Named Baron Dainton of Hallam Moors in 1986

1 July 1972 | The first Pride march is held in London

69 1973–1974



Sir Derek Harold Richard Barton
(1918–1998)

- Born in Gravesend
- Regius Professor of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow
- Hofmann Professor of Organic Chemistry at Imperial College from 1972
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1969) awarded jointly with Odd Hassel for their ‘contributions to the development of the concept of conformation and its application in chemistry’
- The Barton-McCombie deoxygenation organic reaction is named after him and Stuart McCombie

70 1974-1975



Dr Jack Wheeler Barrett (1912-1998)

- Born in Cheltenham
- Worked at the London Essence Co Ltd working on the formulations of essences and perfumes
- Director of Research at Monsanto
- President of IChemE (1971-1972)

February 1974 | Maureen Colquhoun became the first openly lesbian MP

71 1975-1976

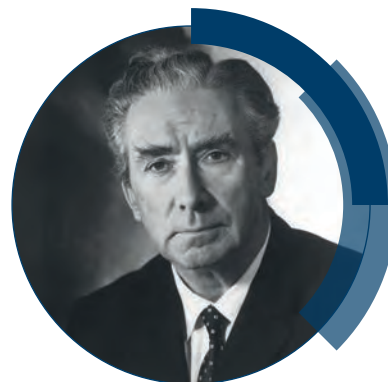


Frank Arnold Robinson (1907-1988)

- Born in Holywell Green, Yorkshire
- President of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1972-1974)
- Director of Research at Allen & Hanburys
- Director of Twyford Laboratories

1975 | International Women's Year declared by the United Nations, since then International Women's Day is held on 8 March

72 1976-1977



Professor Cyril Clifford Addison (1913-1994)

- Born in Plumpton, Cumbria
- Inorganic chemist
- Member of the Chemical Inspection Department, Ministry of Supply (1939-1945)
- Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at Nottingham University (1946-1978)

73 1977–1978



Professor Alan Woodworth Johnson (1917–1982)

- Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- Obtained an ICI Fellowship to work with Lord Todd in Cambridge
- Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sussex
- Won the Davy Medal in 1980 'In recognition of his distinguished contributions to the chemistry of natural products including vitamin B₁₂ porphyrins, plant germination factors and insect hormones and pheromones'

20 August and 5 September 1977 | Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 launched. Voyager 1 reached interstellar space on 25 August 2012. As of 2022, both were still transmitting data back to Earth

74 1978–1979



Sir Theodore Morris Sugden (1919–1984)

- Born in Triangle, Yorkshire
- During the Second World War, worked on methods for eliminating gunflash from weapons of various calibres
- Director of Research at the Shell Thornton Research Centre
- Master of Trinity Hall
- Chairman of the Government Advisory Committee on Nuclear Safety

25 June 1978 | Gilbert Baker's rainbow flag flew for the first time, in San Francisco

75 1979–1980



Dr Alfred Spinks (1917–1982)

- Born in Littleport, Cambridgeshire
- Final president of the Chemical Society (1979–1980)
- At ICI, he worked on the development of cardiovascular drugs; he later became Research Director
- Chairman of the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development

4 May 1979 | Margaret Thatcher became the UK's first female Prime Minister

Royal Society of Chemistry Presidents (1980–2024)



1 1980–1982



**Sir Ewart Ray
Herbert Jones**
(1911–2002)

- See entry for 64th president of the Chemical Society

8 May 1980 | The World Health Organisation declared smallpox to be the first and, so far, only disease to be completely eradicated globally

12 April 1981 | The first orbital flight in NASA's Space Shuttle program

2 1982–1984



**Professor Sir
John Ivan George
Cadogan** (1930–2020)

- Born in Pembrey, Wales
- Discovered the indole-forming cyclisation reaction that now bears his name
- Director of Research at BP (1981–1992)
- Instrumental in facilitating the widespread use of DNA analysis in the English criminal justice system
- Knighted in 1991

3 1984–1986



**Professor Sir
Richard Norman**
(1932–1993)

- Born in London
- Final president of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (1978–1980)
- The first Head of Chemistry at the University of York
- Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence (1983–1988)
- Knighted in 1987

10 September 1984 | Alec Jeffreys discovered DNA fingerprinting

4 1986–1988



Lord Jack Lewis
(1928–2014)

- Born in Lancashire
- The 1970 Inorganic Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge for 25 years
- The first Warden of Robinson College when it was founded in 1975
- Named Baron of Newnham in 1989

11 June 1987 | Diane Abbott became the first female black MP

May 1988 | Section 28 was put onto the statute books; repealed on 18 September 2003

5 1988–1990



Professor John Mason Ward
(1921–2014)

- Born in Wangford, Suffolk
- Was Head of Chemistry at the Central Electricity Research Laboratory
- Oversaw the move of the majority of the society's staff to its main site at Thomas Graham House in Cambridge
- Honorary Professor at the University of Surrey

March 1989 | Tim Berners-Lee wrote his first proposal for the World Wide Web

6 1990–1992



Sir Rex Edward Richards (1922–2019)

- Born in Colyton, Devon
- Warden of Merton College, Oxford (1969–1984)
- Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford (1977–1981)
- Chancellor of the University of Exeter (1982–1998)
- Director of the Leverhulme Trust
- Knighted in 1977 for services to nuclear magnetic spectroscopy

7 1992–1994



Professor Charles Wayne Rees (1927–2006)

- Born in Cairo, Egypt
- Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Leicester
- Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Liverpool
- Hofmann Professor of Organic Chemistry at Imperial College London
- Awarded a CBE in 1995

8 1994–1996



Professor John Howard Purnell (1925–1996)

- Born in the Rhondda, South Wales
- Director of Studies in the Natural Sciences at Trinity Hall, Cambridge
- Professor of Physical Chemistry at Swansea
- Vice-President of the Faraday Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry
- Died in office, on 12 January 1996

27 April 1994 | The end of apartheid comes as Black South Africans are able to participate in elections for the first time; Nelson Mandela is elected president

9 1996–1998



Professor Edward William Abel
(1931–2021)

- Born in Kenfig Hill, South Wales
- Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, University of Exeter (1972–1997), now Emeritus
- Imperial College
- Awarded the RSC Tilden Prize in 1980
- Awarded a CBE in 1997 ‘for services to Chemistry’

May 1997 | David Blunkett became the first visually impaired person to hold a position in the Cabinet, Mohammed Sarwar became the first Muslim MP and Chris Smith became the first openly gay Cabinet Minister

10 1998–2000



Professor Anthony Ledwith
(1933–2015)

- Born in Wigan
- Campbell Brown Professor of Industrial Chemistry at the University of Liverpool
- Director of Pilkington
- Head of the Chemistry Department at the University of Sheffield

September 1998 | Google founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin

11 2000–2002



Professor Steven Victor Ley

- Born in Stamford, Lincolnshire
- Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Cambridge, Fellow of Trinity College
- Expert in the field of the total synthesis of biomolecules
- Pioneered the use of immobilised reagents and flow techniques in multi-step organic synthesis
- Fellow of the Royal Society, Fellow of Academy of Medical Sciences
- First recipient in the UK of the Arthur C. Cope Award from the American Chemical Society
- Appointed CBE in 2002 for services to chemistry

19 December 2000 | The Netherlands became the first country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage

12 2002–2004



Professor Sir Harold Kroto (1939–2016)

- Born in Wisbech
- Discovered a third form of carbon, buckminsterfullerene's (C_{60})
- Awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1996 with Professors Curl & Smalley 'for their discovery of fullerenes'
- His friend Peter Hall, named a wine after him, the 'Breaky Bottom Cuvée Sir Harry Kroto'
- Knighted in 1996 for services to chemistry

May 2002 | Paul Boateng became the first black Cabinet member

April 2003 | The Human Genome Project completed

May 2003 | Valerie Amos became the first female black Cabinet member

13 2004–2006



Sir Simon Campbell

- Born in Lapal, Halesowen
- Studied in Birmingham, Valparaiso (Chile) and Stanford (USA)
- Professor Universidade de Sao Paulo
- Senior Vice-President for World-wide Discovery and Medicinals R&D at Pfizer in Sandwich
- Invented the drugs Doxazosin and Amlodipine
- Played a leading role in the discovery of Sildenafil (Viagra)
- Fellow of the Royal Society and the Academy of Medical Sciences
- Awards include the Sir James Black Award for Drug Discovery, RSC-BCMS Lifetime Achievement Award, RSC-BCMS Hall of Fame, Herschberg Award (ACS)
- Awarded a CBE in 2006 for services to science
- Awarded a Knighthood in 2015 for services to chemistry

14 2006–2008



Professor W James Feast

- Born in Birmingham
- Emeritus Research Professor at Durham University and Eindhoven University of Technology
- Awarded a CBE in 2007 ‘for services to polymer chemistry’
- Awarded a Royal Medal ‘for his outstanding contributions to chemical synthesis with far reaching implications, particularly for the field of functional polymeric materials’

2006 | The Racial and Religious Hatred Act in the UK makes it illegal to stir up hatred against someone because of their race or religion

15 2008–2010



Professor C David Garner

- Born in Wilmslow, Cheshire UK
- Founding president of the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry
- Studied at Nottingham University and California Institute of Technology
- Professor of Chemistry at the University of Nottingham
- Recipient of the RSC Tilden Medal, the Joseph Chatt Lectureship, the Inorganic Biochemistry Award and the Ludwig Mond Lectureship

10 September 2008 | The Large Hadron Collider was started for the first time

20 January 2009 | Barack Obama inaugurated as the first African American president of the United States

16 2010–2012



Professor David Phillips

- Born in Kendal
- Wolfson Professor of Natural Philosophy the Royal Institution (1980–1989), Deputy Director (1986–1989)
- Hofmann Professor of Chemistry Imperial College London (1989–2002), Dean of Sciences (2002–2006), Professor Emeritus (2006–present), Research in photochemistry and photophysics
- Faraday Medal, Royal Society for science communication 1999
- Appointed Fellow of the Royal Society in 2015
- Appointed CBE in 2012 for services to chemistry

2010 | The introduction of The Equalities Act in the UK

6 May 2010 | Rushanara Ali, Shabana Mahmood & Yasmin Qureshi became the first female Muslim MPs

17 2012–2014



Professor Lesley Yellowlees

- Born in London, lived mostly in Edinburgh
- Head of Chemistry and the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Edinburgh
- First female president of the Royal Society of Chemistry
- Research focused on developing in situ spectroelectrochemical techniques
- Champion of equality, diversity and inclusion throughout STEM
- Appointed MBE in 2005 for services to science and CBE in the 2014 for services to chemistry

4 July 2012 | The Higgs Boson particle first observed, at CERN

29 March 2014 | Peter McGraith and David Cabreza became one of the first same sex couples to be legally married in the UK

18 2014–2016



Professor Dominic Tildesley

- Born in London
- Studied at Universities of Southampton and Oxford, Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University
- Lecturer and Professor of Chemical Physics at Southampton University and Imperial College
- Chief Scientist for Unilever's Home and Personal Care Business
- Director of the European Center for Atomic and Molecular Calculations (CECAM) at the EPFL in Switzerland
- Recipient of the Marlow medal, the Tilden lecture and medal
- Awarded the CBE in 2014 for services to science and industry

7 May 2015 | Alan Mak became the first British Chinese MP

19 2016–2018



Professor Sir John Holman

- Born in Bath
- Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at the University of York
- First RSC president to come from a school teaching background. Taught chemistry at all ages from 11-year olds to undergraduates
- Founded the National Science Learning Centre, 2005
- Knighted in 2010 for services to education

October 2017 | #MeToo (a term originally coined by Tarana Burke in 2006) begins a global movement against abuse and sexual harassment

20 2018–2020



Professor Dame Carol Robinson

- Born in Bromley
- Royal Society Research Professor and the Dr Lee's Professor of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry at the University of Oxford
- Distinguished for research on the application of mass spectrometry to problems in chemical biology
- Established that macromolecular complexes can be generated in the gas phase and their electrospray mass spectra recorded
- Defined the folding and binding of interacting proteins in large complexes
- Founded the company OMass Therapeutics; harnessing spectrometry to drive drug discovery
- Appointed DBE in 2013 for services to science and industry

April 2019 | The Event Horizon Telescope took the first ever image of a black hole, at the centre of galaxy Messier 87

21 2020–2022



Professor Thomas Welton

- Born in London
- Studied at University of Sussex
- Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Imperial College 2014–2019
- World's first Professor of Sustainable Chemistry
- Awarded OBE in 2017 for services to diversity and education
- Member of the British Athletics Supporters Club

25 May 2020 | The murder of George Floyd sparked a global movement for Black Lives Matter

8 December 2020 | First vaccine against COVID-19 administered to a patient, Margaret Keenan

22 2022–2024



Professor Gill Reid

- Born in Grangemouth, Scotland
- Studied at the University of Edinburgh
- Head of Chemistry, University of Southampton (2016–2020)
- Royal Society of Chemistry Award for Achievement in the Promotion of Chemistry
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Learning & Teaching in Chemistry
- Inorganic coordination chemist

Researching Past Presidents



The information about the past presidents in this booklet was predominantly taken from sources linked to from the Royal Society of Chemistry's Library catalogue. As well as holding the records for the book and journal collections and the archive, the catalogue contains many thousands of records that will help those wishing to conduct historical research on individuals.

The Biographical Database of historical profiles and obituaries of past Society fellows and scientists was imported to the catalogue in February 2020. Moving the database to the catalogue created a more integrated search experience for the end user; instead of searching separate platforms for obituaries, images, the book and journal collections, and the archive, we now provide this single resource.

The catalogue can be searched at rsc.org/opac; access to the content linked to in the records is free to RSC Members with some information being free to all. Another valuable source of information for researchers is the Historical Collection pubs.rsc.org/historical-collection with individual items being linked to from the catalogue. As some of the information with regards to the workings of the early days of the Society was written by hand or may have an obscure typeface, performing a keyword search within the document won't be effective; it would be then that the researcher would need to peruse the document page-by-page as if they were looking through the physical item.

Selected bibliography

Chemical Society 1896, 'History of the Development of the Society', The Jubilee of the Chemical Society, pp. 113–292 (Available from the Journal Archive)

Moore, TS & Philip, JC 1947, *The Chemical Society 1841–1941: A Historical Review*, Chemical Society, London. (Available from the Historical Collection)

Presidents by Date



Chemical Society Presidents (1841–1980)

1. Thomas Graham (1841–1843)
2. Arthur Aiken (1843–1845)
3. Thomas Graham (1845–1847)
4. William Thomas Brande (1847–1849)
5. Richard Phillips (1849–1851)
6. Charles Daubeny (1851–1853)
7. Philip Yorke (1853–1855)
8. William Allen Miller (1855–1857)
9. Lyon Playfair (1857–1859)
10. Benjamin Brodie (1859–1861)
11. August Wilhelm von Hoffmann (1861–1863)
12. Alexander William Williamson (1863–1865)
13. William Allen Miller (1865–1867)
14. Warren de la Rue (1867–1869)
15. Alexander William Williamson (1869–1871)
16. Edward Frankland (1871–1873)
17. William Odling (1873–1875)
18. Frederick Augustus Abel (1875–1877)
19. John Hall Gladstone (1877–1878)
20. Warren de la Rue (1879–1880)
21. Henry Enfield Roscoe (1880–1882)
22. Joseph Henry Gilbert (1882–1883)
23. William Henry Perkin (1883–1885)
24. Hugo Muller (1885–1887)
25. William Crookes (1887–1889)
26. William James Russell (1889–1891)
27. Alexander Crum Brown (1891–1893)
28. Henry Edward Armstrong (1893–1895)
29. Augustus George Vernon Harcourt (1895–1897)
30. James Dewar (1897–1899)
31. Thomas Edward Thorpe (1899–1901)
32. James Emerson Reynolds (1901–1903)
33. William Augustus Tilden (1903–1905)
34. Raphael Meldola (1905–1907)
35. William Ramsay (1907–1909)
36. Harold Baily Dixon (1909–1911)
37. Percy Faraday Frankland (1911–1913)
38. William Henry Perkin Jnr. (1913–1915)
39. Alexander Scott (1915–1917)
40. William Jackson Pope (1917–1919)
41. James Johnston Dobbie (1919–1921)
42. James Walker (1921–1923)
43. William Palmer Wynne (1923–1925)
44. Arthur William Crossley (1925–1926)
45. Herbert Brereton Baker (1926–1928)
46. Jocelyn Field Thorpe (1928–1931)
47. George Gerald Henderson (1931–1933)
48. Gilbert Thomas Morgan (1933–1935)
49. Nevil Vincent Sidgwick (1935–1937)
50. Frederick George Donnan (1937–1939)
51. Robert Robinson (1939–1941)
52. James Charles Philip (1941–August 1941)
53. William Hobson Mills (1941–1944)
54. Walter Norman Haworth (1944–1946)
55. Cyril Norman Hinshelwood (1946–1948)
56. Ian Morris Heilbron (1948–1950)
57. Eric Keightley Rideal (1950–1952)
58. Christopher Kelk Ingold (1952–1954)
59. William Wardlaw (1954–1956)
60. Edmund Langley Hirst (1956–1958)
61. Harry Julius Emeleus (1958–1960)
62. Alexander Robertus Todd (1960–1962)
63. John Monteath Robertson (1962–1964)
64. Ewart Ray Herbert Jones (1964–1966)
65. Harry Work Melville (1966–1968)
66. Ronald Sydney Nyholm (1968–1970)
67. George Porter (1970–1972)
68. Frederick Sydney Dainton (1972–1973)
69. Derek Harold Richard Barton (1973–1974)
70. Jack Wheeler Barrett (1974–1975)
71. Frank Arnold Robinson (1975–1976)
72. Cyril Clifford Addison (1976–1977)
73. Alan Woodworth Johnson (1977–1978)
74. Theodore Morris Sugden (1978–1979)
75. Alfred Spinks (1979–1980)

Royal Society of Chemistry Presidents (1980–2024)

1. Ewart Ray Herbert Jones (1980–1982)
2. John Ivan George Cadogan (1982–1984)
3. Richard Oswald Chandler Norman (1984–1986)
4. Jack Lewis (1986–1988)
5. John Mason Ward (1988–1990)
6. Rex Edward Richards (1990–1992)
7. Charles Wayne Rees (1992–1994)
8. John Howard Purnell (1994–1996)
9. Edward William Abel (1996–1998)
10. Anthony Ledwith (1998–2000)
11. Steven Victor Ley (2000–2002)
12. Harold Kroto (2002–2004)
13. Simon Campbell (2004–2006)
14. Jim Feast (2006–2008)
15. C David Garner (2008–2010)
16. David Phillips (2010–2012)
17. Lesley Yellowlees (2012–2014)
18. Dominic Tildesley (2014–2016)
19. John Holman (2016–2018)
20. Carol V Robinson (2018–2020)
21. Thomas Welton (2020–2022)
22. Gill Reid (2022–2024)

Society for Analytical Chemistry Presidents (1875–1972)

1. Theophilus Redwood (1875–1876)
2. Auguste Dupre (1877–1878)
3. John Muter (1879–1880)
4. Charles Heisch (1881–1882)
5. George William Wigner (1883–1884)
6. Alfred Hill (1885–1886)
7. Alfred Henry Allen (1887–1888)
8. Matthew Adams (1889–1890)
9. Otto Hehner (1891–1892)
10. Charles Alexander Cameron (1893–1894)
11. Thomas Stevenson (1895–1896)
12. Bernard Dyer (1897–1898)
13. Walter Fisher (1899–1900)
14. John Voelcker (1901–1902)
15. Thomas Fairley (1903–1904)
16. Edward Bevan (1905–1906)
17. John Clark (1907)
18. Robert Rattray Tatlock (1908–1909)
19. Edward Voelcker (1910–1911)
20. Leonard Archbutt (1912–1913)
21. Alfred Chapman (1914–1915)
22. George Embrey (1916–1917)
23. Samuel Rideal (1918–1919)
24. Alfred Smetham (1920–1921)
25. Percy Andrew Ellis Richards (1922–1923)
26. George Rudd Thompson (1924–1925)
27. Edward Richards Bolton (1926–1927)
28. Edward Hinks (1928–1929)
29. John Thomas Dunn (1930–1931)
30. Francis William Frederick Annaud (1932–1933)
31. John Evans (1934–1935)
32. Gerald Roche Lynch (1936–1937)
33. William Henry Roberts (1938–1939)
34. Edwin Burnthorpe Hughes (1940–1942)
35. Samuel Ernest Melling (1943–1944)
36. Gordon Wickham Monier-Williams (1945–1946)
37. Lewis Eynon (1947–1948)
38. George Taylor (1949–1950)
39. John Ralph Nicholls (1951–1952)
40. Douglas William Kent-Jones (1953–1954)
41. Kenneth Alan Williams (1955–1956)
42. Jack Hubert Hamence (1957–1958)
43. Ralph Clark Chirnside (1959–1960)
44. Arthur James Amos (1961–1962)
45. Donald Clarence Garrett (1962–1963)
46. Albert Arthur Smales (1964–1966)
47. Arthur George Jones (1967–1968)
48. Thomas Summers West (1969–1970)
49. Clifford Whalley (1971–1972)

Royal Institute of Chemistry Presidents (1877–1980)

1. Edward Frankland (1877–1880)
2. Frederick Augustus Abel (1880–1883)
3. William Odling (1883–1888)
4. James Bell (1888–1891)
5. William Augustus Tilden (1891–1894)
6. William James Russell (1894–1897)
7. Thomas Stevenson (1897–1900)
8. John Millar Thompson (1900–1903)
9. David Howard (1903–1906)
10. Percy Faraday Frankland (1906–1909)
11. George Thomas Beilby (1909–1912)
12. Raphael Meldola (1912–1915)
13. James Johnston Dobbie (1915–1918)
14. Herbert Jackson (1918–1921)
15. Alfred Chapman (1921–1924)
16. George Gerald Henderson (1924–1927)
17. Arthur Smithells (1927–1930)
18. George Christopher Clayton (1930–1933)
19. Jocelyn Field Thorpe (1933–1936)
20. Robert Howson Pickard (1936–1939)
21. William Alexander Skeen Calder (1939–1940)
22. John Jacob Fox (1940–1943)
23. Alexander Findlay (1943–1946)
24. Gerald Roche Lynch (1946–1949)
25. James Wilfred Cook (1949–1951)
26. Herbert William Cremer (1951–1953)
27. Harry Jephcott (1953–1955)
28. Douglas William Kent-Jones (1955–1957)
29. William Wardlaw (1957–1958)
30. Ernest Le Quesne Herbert (1959–1961)
31. William Kershaw Slater (1961–1963)
32. Harry Julius Emeleus (1963–1965)
33. Frank Hartley (1965–1967)
34. Leslie Henry Williams (1967–1970)
35. Ewart Ray Herbert Jones (1970–1972)
36. Frank Arnold Robinson (1972–1974)
37. Charles Kemball (1974–1976)
38. Charles Norman Thompson (1976–1978)
39. Richard Oswald Chandler Norman (1978–1980)

Faraday Society Presidents (1903–1972)

1. Joseph Swan (1903–1904)
2. Lord Kelvin (1905–1907)
3. William Henry Perkin (1907)
4. Oliver Lodge (1908–1909)
5. James Swinburne (1909–1911)
6. Richard T. Glazebrook (1911–1913)
7. Robert Abbott Hadfield (1913–1920)
8. Alfred W Porter (1920–1922)
9. Robert Robertson (1922–1924)
10. Frederick George Donnan (1924–1926)
11. Cecil Henry Desch (1926–1928)
12. Thomas Martin Lowry (1928–1930)
13. Robert Mond (1930–1932)
14. Nevil Vincent Sidgwick (1932–1934)
15. William Rintoul (1934–1936)
16. Morris William Travers (1936–1938)
17. Eric Keightley Rideal (1938–1945)
18. William Edward Garner (1945–1947)
19. Arthur John Allmand (1947–1948)
20. John Lennard-Jones (1948–1950)
21. Charles Goodeve (1950–1952)
22. Hugh Taylor (1952–1953)
23. Ronald George Wreyford Norrish (1953–1955)
24. Ronald Percy Bell (1956–1957)
25. Harry Work Melville (1958)
26. Edgar William Steacie (1959)
27. Harry Work Melville (1960)
28. Cyril Norman Hinshelwood (1961–1962)
29. Alfred Rene Ubbelohde (1963–1964)
30. Frederick Sydney Dainton (1965–1966)
31. Cecil Edwin Bawn (1967–1968)
32. Geoffrey Gee (1969–1970)
33. John Wilfred Linnett (1971–1972)



Thomas Graham House
Science Park, Milton Road
Cambridge CB4 0WF, UK
T +44 (0)1223 420066

Burlington House
Piccadilly, London
W1J 0BA, UK
T +44 (0)20 7437 8656

International offices
Beijing, China
Shanghai, China
Berlin, Germany
Bangalore, India
Tokyo, Japan
Philadelphia, USA
Washington, USA

rsc.org

 @RoyalSocietyofChemistry

 @RoySocChem

 @roysocchem

 @wwwRSCorg

Registered charity number: 207890
© Royal Society of Chemistry 2022