

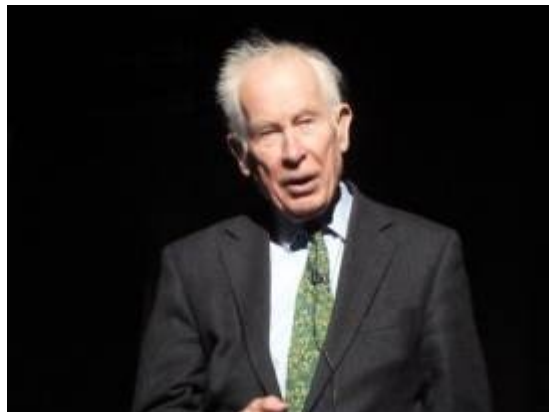
SUCCESSFUL REACHOUT AND A FIRST FOR THE HALESWORTH U3A IN SUFFOLK

Professor Emeritus Sir Patrick Bateson spoke to about a hundred of us in a public lecture on 22nd November sponsored by our Science Study Group. Members from some five other U3A's in our Region attended this lecture as well as the general public.

The title of his lecture was "Where does our behaviour come from? Nature versus Nurture Nonsense".

Professor Bateson explained that evolution is not as simple as the Darwinian theory purports, and introduced the concept of a process whereby our genetic nature interacts with a nurturing environment, each generating behaviours that affect each other both in the short and the long term. In this context, Sir Patrick used the term "plasticity" to describe the ability to be flexible and "robustness" the ability to be constant. He gave us many examples including that of the growth and development of either low or high birth weight babies when later fed poor or affluent diets, and how the genetic norm for height can change over time, which is particularly apparent now in Japan.

Sir Patrick has many academic publications to his name, and is the co-author of a recent book with Peter Gluckman entitled "Plasticity, Robustness, Development and Evolution" which explores these ideas in great depth.

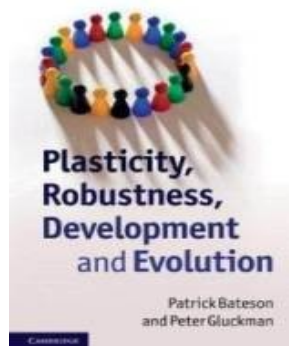


Professor Sir Patrick Bateson

Professor Emeritus at The University of Cambridge

President of the Zoological Society of London

Fellow of the Royal Society



Sir Patrick Bateson's Latest Book



Sir Patrick with Organising Members of the Science Study Group,
Jenni Hine, Sue Smith & Fred Fisher