

The 2008 IMA–LMS Christopher Zeeman Medal is awarded to Professor Ian Stewart of the University of Warwick in recognition of his wide-ranging and highly influential activities in promoting mathematics through books, radio, television and public lectures, thereby bringing the excitement and fascination of mathematics to a large number of people.

Ian Stewart has been an outstanding communicator of mathematics for nearly 40 years, and has set the standards for all mathematics communicators to follow. Ian Stewart has made a huge contribution to the promotion of mathematics both through his individual work, in inspiring those who work with him, and in developing an extraordinary canon of work. He has inspired countless numbers of people both to have an interest in mathematics and also to take up mathematics as a career.

He is a master of all mediums for communicating mathematics. He has written 14 popular maths books (translated into many different languages), all of which are masterpieces in combining clarity of expression, the means to communicate to a broad audience and also enough deep mathematics to satisfy and educate a professional mathematician. They include such seminal works as *Does God Play Dice?*, *Concepts in Modern Mathematics*, *The Problems of Mathematics*, *Nature's Numbers*, *The Magical Maze*, *Letters to a Young Mathematician* and *Why Beauty is Truth*. In all of these books he has never compromised in the level of mathematics that he has presented, and always manages to find a path to lead a general audience upwards so that they can appreciate the true power and beauty of modern mathematics. This was also evident in the many articles that he wrote whilst mathematical recreations columnist for the *Scientific American* and more recently in the Enigmas and Puzzles section of *Prospect Magazine*. He has also frequently appeared on both radio and television and has for many years been the major advocate of mathematics in the popular media. In 1997 was the Royal Institution Christmas Lecturer (the second ever to present mathematics).

In addition to his popular work he has written remarkably clear mathematics textbooks on topics such as Galois Theory, Algebraic Number Theory and Catastrophe Theory. He has also conducted leading edge research into the field of Bifurcations with Symmetry (supervising many research students) co-authoring the major text book in this field. This has led to 175 publications including seminal work on animal gait. As well as his mathematical works, he has written successful science fiction books and books on extraterrestrial biology which further show his ability to communicate scientific ideas to a vast audience.