

# RSE and Friends

## SPITALFIELDS DAY – GEOMETRY & ALGEBRA

***'Spitalfields Days' are meetings or symposia on specialist topics organised by various mathematical societies, institutes and departments and attended by eminent mathematicians, often from overseas, for the general mathematical community. They are held in honour of the Spitalfields Mathematical Society, a precursor of the London Mathematical Society, which flourished from 1717 to 1845. The London Mathematical Society thinks that it is important for recent developments in these specialist topics to be made known to the general mathematical community and, in particular, to research students. It therefore provides funds to the organisers of these meetings so that they can provide a day of survey lectures, accessible to a general mathematical audience.***

Spitalfields Day was held at the RSE on 17 September 2010, supported by The International Centre for Mathematical Sciences (ICMS), The London Mathematical Society, (LMS), the Edinburgh Mathematical Society and the RSE. The event celebrated the election in May 2010 of Professor Friedrich Hirzebruch, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, Bonn, as an Honorary Fellow of the RSE.



A morning lecture was delivered by past President of the RSE, Sir Michael Atiyah OM FRS on *'The Hodge signature theorem past, present and future'*.

The Induction Ceremony for Professor Hirzebruch was conducted by Professor Tariq Durrani OBE, Vice-President of the RSE (*left*) and the citation read by Sir Michael (*right*) before Professor Hirzebruch (*centre*) was formally welcomed

to the Society by Professor Durrani. Following this, Professor Hirzebruch delivered his lecture on *'125 years of the Schubert calculus'*.

The day concluded with a lecture by Professor Andrew Ranicki, who had also organised the event. Professor Ranicki appropriately spoke on *'Aspects of quadratic forms in the work of Hirzebruch and Atiyah'*.



*The three speakers: (l-r) Professor Andrew Ranicki, Professor Friedrich Hirzebruch and Sir Michael Atiyah.*



*Professor Hirzebruch HonFRSE signs the Roll*