

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July:

*Still Exploring: The Never-Ending Quest*

Miriam Baltuck, John Campbell, Tim Radford, Duncan Steel (PC)

'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, / Than are dreamt of in your philosophy,' says Hamlet. The Prince of Denmark was trying to justify his faith in the word of his father's ghost, with whom he has just been talking on a misty parapet. Stripped of its superstitious context, however, it's still true as a brute scientific fact more than 400 years later.

Like most scientifically under-developed people, I tend to assume that the earth is essentially discovered, and that we know most of the significant things about the observable universe. Duncan Steele tells me that this is a long way from being even remotely accurate. There are life forms being discovered every day, and new principles of scientific knowledge keep appearing.

*Tell us some stories of such discoveries in your field. And tell us where you expect the most important discoveries to come from in the next decade or two. We'll have plenty of panels addressing what we 'need' to do for social, medical, and environmental reasons – use this panel to discuss where the spirit of scientific exploration, freed of other constraints, might most interestingly take us.*