

# News release

London, UK  
Tuesday 14 February 2012

## For immediate release

**Dolly the Sheep made headlines around the world when news broke that the first mammal had been successfully cloned. To mark the anniversary of her death on 14 February 2003, watch the late John Maynard Smith, renowned environmental biologist and geneticist, share his views on her creation and reflect on his highly influential career**

When Dolly the Sheep was cloned from an adult somatic cell using the process of nuclear transfer, it was heralded as one of the most significant scientific breakthroughs of recent years. John Maynard Smith (1920-2004) admits he was perplexed by the news of her creation: 'I'm genuinely puzzled by Dolly the sheep...I read the paper in *Nature* and...it convinced me that the phenomenon is a genuine one, and that's exciting, but it didn't offer any explanation of why it worked, because I would not have expected it to work, and most people in the trade would not.'

Maynard Smith is world renowned for applying game theory to the study of natural selection. His ideas and published works, such as *Evolution and the Theory of Games*, were enormously influential and he was awarded numerous honours, including the 1999 Crafoord Prize (awarded by the Swedish Academy of Sciences to scientists in fields not eligible for Nobel prizes) and the 2001 Kyoto Prize, Japan's highest private award for lifetime achievement.

In order to preserve his own reflections on his influential career, Maynard Smith recorded, in fascinating detail, commentaries on a number of subjects, including his choice of career, the influence of others and how his fascination with topics not easily explained by Darwinian theories seemed to dictate his life's work. The resulting recording can be watched as a number of captivating short clips ranging in length between just seconds and several minutes with a fully searchable transcript. All Web of Stories videos are easy to share with friends and colleagues, and are free for embedding into personal blogs and websites.

Find out more: <http://www.webofstories.com/people/john.maynard.smith/79>

## Notes for Editors

About Web of Stories

*Everyone has a story to tell.* Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy.

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on

related topics and a web was slowly being created of connected stories. After a while we also invited famous people outside the field of science to tell their life stories. Web of Stories is also open to the public to record their stories for the world to view and share. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear. The great thing about Web of Stories is that anyone can come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, it is an account of their experiences as they remember them.

We hope to provide lasting, first-hand accounts of people's experiences. Imagine that in a hundred years' time your grandchildren or great grandchildren will be able to watch you telling stories about your life today!

**Contact:**

For more information on Web of Stories or any other video interview with Web of Stories please contact the Press Desk on +44(0)20 7323 0323 or email [press@webofstories.com](mailto:press@webofstories.com)

Science Navigation Group, Web of Stories, Middlesex House, 34-42 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4LB

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