The Royal Society is an independent scientific academy founded in 1660 and self-governing under Royal Charter. The society has three roles, as the scientific academy of the British kingdom, as a funding body, and as a broad society.

Objectives of the Royal Society are to:
- recognise excellence in science
- support leading-edge scientific research and its applications
- stimulate international interaction
- further the role of science, engineering and technology in society
- promote the public understanding of science
- provide independent authoritative advice on matters relating to science, engineering and technology
- encourage research into the history of science

For more information on the Society’s activities, please consult the following departments on the extensions listed by dialing +44 (020) 7839 5561, or visit the Society’s Web site (www.royalsociety.org).

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Science Advice
General enquiries: 2583
Science Communication
General enquiries: 2572

International Exchanges (for grants enabling research visits between the UK and most other countries (except the USA))
General enquiries: 2550

Library and Information Services
Library/archive enquiries: 2606

Cover image: A red squirrel (Tamiasciurus hudsonicus) biting off scales of a limber pine (Pinus flexilis) to access its seeds for consumption, Rocky Mountain National Park, CO, USA. Increased seed defenses in response to selection exerted by red squirrels has caused limber pine to shift from relying on primary seed dispersal by Clark’s nutcracker (Nucifraga columbiana) to increasingly relying on secondary seed dispersal by ground-foraging scatter-hoarding rodents like deer mice (Peromyscus maniculatus). (See pages 1917-1925, photograph by Steve Gear/Stockphoto.com)