



# THE FLAT EARTH SOCIETY

## PRESS RELEASE

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## THE FLAT EARTH SOCIETY OFFICIALLY REOPENS TO NEW MEMBERS

The Flat Earth Society is officially launching its new website and opening membership to new members for the first time since 2001.

The website, now online at [www.theflatearthsociety.org](http://www.theflatearthsociety.org), features the largest public collection of Flat Earth literature in the world as well as a comprehensive user-edited encyclopaedia and a thriving online discussion forum with over half a million messages.

The official launch of the website marks an important transition for the Flat Earth Society. Traditionally, the Flat Earth Society has communicated with its members through printed newsletters such as the *Earth Not A Globe Review* and the *Flat Earth News*. “Technology has moved on and we’re thrilled to be able to reach a much broader audience with our message,” Flat Earth Society president Daniel Shenton said. “The Internet is an amazing tool for communication.” The Flat Earth Forums, a web message board run by the Society, has gathered over 16,000 users and half a million messages since its launch in 2004.

The modern Flat Earth movement began with Samuel “Parallax” Rowbotham’s writings and lectures in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. His teachings led to the founding of the *Universal Zetetic Society* shortly after his death in 1884. The *Universal Zetetic Society* continued its work until 1956 when it Royal Astronomical Society Fellow Samuel Shenton accepted the mantle of leadership and renamed it the Flat Earth Society.

Although membership in the Society went through a period of decline in the late 1990s, there has recently been a resurgence in interest, according to Shenton. “In the past two years, there has been a major book published about the Flat Earth movement as well as articles on the BBC website and Fox News which included interviews with one of the Society’s most prominent members, James McIntyre.” According to McIntyre, “the myth of globularism has been proselytized for centuries by the scientific establishment. We seek to challenge that dogma.” Shenton adds, “I think we’re capturing the public’s imagination and that’s very important. I realise that our views are still considered highly unorthodox, but people are beginning to ask questions and that’s the first step in a long process of truth-seeking.”

The Flat Earth Society website is now online at [www.theflatearthsociety.org](http://www.theflatearthsociety.org) and the Society can be contacted by email at [info@theflatearthsociety.org](mailto:info@theflatearthsociety.org), by phone at (+44) 07971459627 or by post at:

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## Notes to editors

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