

Farewell Mr Spock

A short time ago, on February 27th 2015, one of my child hood heroes, Leonard Nimoy, better known to millions as Mr Spock, in the original series of Star Trek, passed beyond the Final Frontier. Those of you in the village who know me, will know I am not only mad about science, gadgets and technology but I also love Science Fiction. You could argue that science fiction provides a gateway into the real world of science for many kids. In fact many scientists have admitted that reading and watching Science Fiction, as a child, was a major reason for them going into this field in the first place. Unfortunately I was never quite bright enough to realise my dream of becoming the next Einstein.

One of the longest and most popular Science Fiction programs that encouraged children into taking up a scientific career was, of course, Star Trek, which began life in 1966, three years before the first men landed on the Moon. Star Trek broke new grounds in many ways, not only did it fire the imagination of a whole generation but it also predicted the existence for some of the devices we now take for granted in everyday life, such as the hand held mobile phone, the tablet computer, needle free medical injection technology to name but a few. Star Trek also provided up and coming scientists with some "Far Out" challenges like trying to invent the Tractor Beam, the Matter Transporter, the hand held medical scanner and of course Warp Drive. Although these concepts were considered purely Science Fiction at the time, a number of today's leading scientists, including those working for NASA, have been actively pursuing research into these ideas and have come to the conclusion that some of them may not be as farfetched as first thought.

So, I would just like to say, thank you Leonard Nimoy and Star Trek for giving my generation and many other generations of children the wonderful dream of living in a future world filled with exciting new science, technology and ideas where the horizons for new discovery and invention are only limited by our imagination.

Live Long and Prosper

Marius Stuart