



SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

February 2020 – Monthly Report

Monthly Meeting 6th February 2020:

This month the meeting on February 6th started the year looking at some interesting and detailed aspects of Trees. This was presented by John Loftus a member of the group and qualified botanist. John covered an enormous spectrum of the whole world of trees, their life cycle, contribution to the planet and climate change effects etc. Well described with detailed slides, facts and anecdotes, the presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all – and in this case to one of our largest meetings with over 30 people attending. Our thanks go to him for making this such an interesting and thought-provoking topic. And if you are interested in the topic you might start with a read of a recommended book, “The Life of Trees” by Peter Wohlleben, available of course from Amazon books and elsewhere.

Library of Past Presentations:

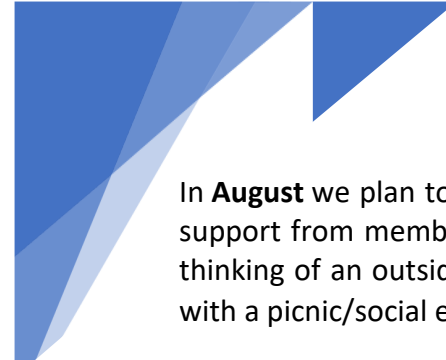
At many of our meetings we have presentations given by members of the group or invited speakers. These presentations span the full range of our science interests. A selection of these are available by following the relevant #LINK# item on our group web page. If you would like further details of the subject matter, please contact our Group Convenor who will pass you the relevant contact details.

Diary of future activities:

March 2020 we have a talk presented by Dr Helen Bynum, a well known historian of medicine and medical science, entitled “**Coughs and Cures**”. This has become very pertinent following the tragic and worrying spread of a Coronavirus in China and other parts of the globe.

In **April** we hope to have a visit from Dr Mark Collins, ex Chairman of **The Galapagos Conservation Trust** (<https://galapagosconservation.org.uk>). The details of his talk have yet to be finalised but The Galapagos and his interest in specific species of butterflies will I am sure provide an interesting and informative session.

In **May** we are planning to dedicate one full meeting to the topic of **Waste plastics and their disposal**. This will be kicked-off with a presentation put together as an intro to the topic, by Rod Parker shortly before his sad passing in January. I will give this on his behalf and then Jane Newbold will set up a round table discussion to cull your own ideas on how best to carry out this increasingly necessary task. Please come along with your ideas and experiences.



In **August** we plan to have our annual break but this year with a difference. Given the right support from members and following the success of our December social meeting, we are thinking of an outside get together, perhaps focussing on some aspects of the garden, and with a picnic/social element. Let me know what you think.

September we are privileged to host two visitors to brief us on aspects of **the use of Nuclear Energy** . This will be given partly by Tom MacGarry of Sizewell giving us an update on the state of play of the Sizewell "C" proposal and partly by Chris Cockroft. Chris is the son of Sir John Cockroft who was awarded the Nobel prize in Physics in 1951 for his work on Nuclear Fission.(<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/1951/cockcroft/biographical/>) Chris is particularly interested on safety aspects of the nuclear industry and some myths surrounding it.

For your diaries, a summary of Future Dates/Meetings:

5 th March 2020	Dr Helen Bynum – History of Medical Science
2 nd April	Dr Mark Collins – The Galapagos Conservation Trust
7 th May	In house discussion on waste plastics and their disposal.
4 th June	Science in the News – Whatever you bring to the meeting.
2 nd July	TBD
August	Date, location and content to be decided
3 rd September	Nuclear Power, Sizewell ‘C’ and Safety in the industry.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our meetings and please do bring along your own science news bites. We try to fit in everyone but sometimes the clock beats us as we must vacate the room by 4pm. However, do not let this deter you and try again at the next meeting.

I should also remind you that all our newsletters are available on our U3A Group web page. Just access Beccles U3A and follow the link to **Science in the News/ LINKS/Past Newsletters** and then select the month you would like to access.

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