

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

July 2019 – Monthly Newsletter



Dear Members

A summary of our latest meeting and some details on our future programme and plans. 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 presentations are available by following the relevant **LINK** item on this page. If you would like further details of the subject matter, please contact our Group Convenor who will pass you the relevant contact details.

Monthly Meeting 4th July 2019:

Our meeting in July, attended by 18 U3A members, was an open 'Science in the News' session and a wide-ranging selection of topics were covered. We started however by welcoming some new members to our Group including Suzan Clements, who gave us a short precis of her science interests.

Then we moved on to our science news items with a slide presentation by John Humphrey entitled "The Pacific Garbage Dump", the development of an extensive area within the Pacific gyre of two large dumps of environmental waste - principally plastics. This triggered another "plastic waste" news item by Hilary Roots and an interesting discussion on the disposal of waste generally.


Judith Labanc raised an question as reported in the news, "How many states of matter exist, or are known?".

Alec Hillier gave a short slide presentation on the migratory path of the Arctic Fox utilizing satellite tracking and communications. This is an extraordinarily long journey from Spitsbergen to Ellesmere Island.

On the 50th Anniversary of the first manned lunar landings by NASA, Jon Roots gave a presentation that summarized the incredibly short period of time taken to achieve this following the declaration from President J F Kennedy that the US would set aside funding to do this. After just a few short years, the manned landings were halted, since when although we have seen several different countries sending probes and landers to the moon but no further manned trips have taken place – at least to our knowledge.

Overall a very interesting and varied meeting.

Diary of future activities:



In **August** we will take a Summer break and not hold a meeting, returning on the **5th September** for an open 'Science in the News' discussion.

For our **7th November** meeting we have organised a visiting speaker from the Sizewell C power station. He/she will provide an update on the progress being made on this important project. We are also looking to host a talk on dendrology later in the year - watch this space. And **December** leads us to a seasonal meeting. Who knows ? a quiz, some Xmas fare, cheese and wine, we shall see. But certainly a friendly social gathering to end the year.

Just to remind you, unless otherwise advised our Meetings take place from **2pm to 4pm** on the **first Thursday of the Month**, in **St Michael's Undercroft**. Please note in your diaries however that our first meeting in 2020 will not be held on our usual first Tuesday but on the second Tuesday i.e. 9th January 2020 - St Michael's Undercroft at 2pm. This to relieve the time pressures around Christmas/New Year celebrations.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. And to 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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