

# SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

March 2019 – Monthly Newsletter

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Dear Members

A summary of our meeting and some details on our future programme and plans.

The meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February seemed to be well received and was certainly well attended with our largest single audience of 27 members. Contributing to this were the participation of two recent joiners **John Salter** and **Derek Howe**, and also confirmation that **Jill Wheeler** will become a regular attendee; welcome to all.

As part of our declared open Science in the News session, we had two really interesting presentations on completely different topics. **John Humphrey** our regular marine engineering member, gave a thought-provoking paper on the massive scale of atmospheric pollution generated by shipping around the World. This was followed by an excellent talk by another SitN member **Dr Mike Lloyd** referencing but adding to a recent BBC TV programme on scientific progress in finding a possible cure for the effects of Parkinson's disease. Perhaps, just perhaps we might see an end to the dreadful consequences this disease has on so many people. And I say this having myself lost my younger sister with PD just last year. Both these presentations are available for access on our U3A group web page.


As our membership continues to grow, we may shortly need to consider limiting the number of new joiners as space in our meeting venue is limited and a larger group might change the excellent way we interact at present. Any feedback/comments on this are useful please, to the Steering Group.

At the meeting attention was drawn to the easy access to scientific journals via the Suffolk Libraries website E-Library. For example, New Scientist is freely available in this way. You need to have a current Suffolk Library Membership card but then simply follow the instructions on the web site. Recommended is the app provided by RBDigital.

Looking ahead,

For the **4<sup>th</sup> April** meeting we have a talk to be given by **Dr Martin Parry**. Dr Parry, a member of our group for several years, was until September 2008 Co-Chair of Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability), of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) based at the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, U.K. Meteorological Office. He has held several key roles in UK research in this topic and should give a very interesting and informative view of the current state of play.

In **May** we have the first of our outside visits scheduled. The **John Innes Research Centre** outside Norwich is an independent, international **centre** of excellence in plant science, genetics and microbiology. They provide guided tours of the facility and with a limit of 15 persons per tour we have agreed two separate two hour tours for **7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**



**May.** Check your diaries as this is an excellent opportunity to hear about the work undertaken and please let Richard W your preferred date for your participation.

We are organising a farm walk later in the year centred on Frostenden Hall in Suffolk. **John Bailey** has agreed to give some kind of “wrapper” for this by giving a talk on what is happening at the farm.

Just to remind you, our **Meetings** take place **2pm to 4pm** on the **first Thursday of the Month**, in the **St Michael's Undercroft**, unless otherwise arranged in this monthly newsletter.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next month.

Richard Winterburn

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