

Science and Engineering – Friday 19th April

Journey into Space

Presented by Stuart Hatch

Meeting at St John's Felbridge Church Hall

Doors open at 13:30 for us to get ready

Meeting proper starts at 14:00

The title of our talk on this coming Friday is quite deliberate!

I wonder how many of you can think back to 21st September 1953, a few days after my 11th birthday, when the BBC presented a series of half hour light entertainment programmes in the evenings on "The Light programme" - eventually morphing into BBC Radio 2.

For me, "Journey into Space" was essential listening. The four principal characters (Jet, Mitch Lemmy and Doc) were in every weekly episode. Until I had done some research, I was unaware that in one episode David Jacobs played no less than 22 different characters!

If you would like to delve back into the past – the "Journey into Space" series has been recovered from the BBC archives – and apart from the first episode – has been saved as Operation Luna. You can find it here → <https://youtu.be/La71557UNJk>

Be warned: in total it is over 5 hours long! But there are highlights.

On Friday, Stuart will be giving us his view and perspective on the space race, and it was Stuart who reminded me about that BBC series – which incidentally holds a record: It was the last UK radio programme to attract a bigger evening audience than television.

Somewhat closer in time, NASA landed men on the Moon in Apollo. And the UK was involved in the downlink – with the Goonhilly Down radio telescope. Our application engineers in the room next to mine, at the MRL Salfords laboratory designed, manufactured and installed the super low-noise liquid helium cooled parametric amplifier which NASA chose to download the video footage of "One small step for man....".