

PORTSDOWN U3A'S ANNUAL LECTURE
PROFESSOR LEWIS DARTNELL - THE KNOWLEDGE: HOW TO
REBUILD OUR WORLD FROM SCRATCH



L-R Portsmouth Chairman Beryl Shepherd, Prof Lewis Dartnell, Carole Chapman

Maybe it was a viral pandemic, or an asteroid strike, or nuclear war. The world as we know it has ended. Now you and the other survivors must start again. What key knowledge would you need to start rebuilding civilisation? Once you have scavenged what you can, how do you begin to produce the essentials? How do you grow food, generate power, prepare medicines, or get metal out of rocks? Could you avert another Dark Ages or take steps to accelerate redevelopment?

This was the scenario for Portsmouth U3A's Annual Lecture on 30 November 2016. Nearly a hundred people listened to Dr Lewis Dartnell, an astrobiologist

who is Professor of Science Communication at the University of Westminster, impart *The Knowledge* which is also the title of his best-selling book.

Professor Dartnell spoke from a basis of wide-ranging expertise, but also managed to inject plenty of humour into his presentation. He also provided illustrations and video clips. As is always the sign of a good lecture, there were plenty of questions and members of the audience queued to buy all of the available copies of the book, which were signed by the author.

Portsdown U3A will be organising another Annual Lecture in 2017.

Carole Chapman, Business Secretary, Portsdown U3A