

# Newsletter 124 - June 2023 (1)



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## Future Talks

Meetings are held in Hillingdon Baptist Church on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00. The link for hybrid meetings will be sent out to everybody before the meeting.

Date	Title	Speaker
7/6/2023	Artificial Intelligence - with questions and answers	Carol Mitchell
21/6/2023	Particle Physics	Judith Sinclair
5/7/2023	The James Webb Telescope	Carol Mitchell

If anybody wants to join the *Geology* meetings they are on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00. If you are not on the mailing list let Judy Peddie know so that she can send a link

Next one is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June

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**The Suez Canal** is a 193 km long sea level navigation running between Port Said (Būr Sa'īd) on the Mediterranean Sea and Suez port (al Suways) on the Red Sea.



It is man-made canals (as the image of Port Suez looking North shows) and a natural 'Bitter' lake. It is 200m wide at its narrowest point shown. A feature that has caused problems for Container-ships of the now 'Panamax' size (up to 110 feet wide and 40 feet

draught, being the lock chamber size of the Panama Canal).

In 2021 the 'MV Ever Given' became stuck for six days when it was blown sideways about 3.7 miles north of the Suez entrance.

The vital statistics of the MV Ever Given are difficult to image, 400m-long (1,312ft) with a displacement of 200,000 tonnes and maximum capacity of 20,000 'standard 20 foot' containers. It was carrying 18,300 containers. The ship is operated by Taiwanese transport company Evergreen Marine, on its way to the Dutch port of Rotterdam and its grounding caused chaos for the shipping industry; which was already under pressure from COVID-19 supply chain problems.

It was estimated by Lloyd's List that the stranded vessel was holding up \$400m an hour in trade.

The shipping data and news companies value the canal's westbound traffic at roughly \$5.1bn a day and eastbound traffic at around \$4.5bn a day at the yearly rate.

Roughly 30% of the world's shipping container volume passes through the canal, and about 12% of total global trade presently.

The reason the canal is such a popular route is that it saves a ship from travelling around the southern tip of Africa which would add 3,315 nautical miles to a journey between Tokyo / Shanghai to Rotterdam.

In January 2023 a container ship loaded with more than 65,000 tonnes of corn from Ukraine bound for East Africa was re-floated by the permanent fleet of super tugs after grounding for a day; these are now frequent incidents due to the ever increasing size of shipping for ever improving economy.

Abstract from Reuters Report by Jhoward (*just because this is technology at an awesome scale!*)

## Websites for You to Check

**Subject: Gulls choose what to eat by watching humans, study suggests**

[https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/may/24/gulls-choose-what-to-eat-by-watching-humans-study-suggests?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/may/24/gulls-choose-what-to-eat-by-watching-humans-study-suggests?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

Power giant told by own advisers to stop calling biomass 'carbon neutral' (msn.com)

Sunshine vs. the grid: Why the Czech Republic had to shutdown their solar plants over Easter (msn.com)

'Disturbing' find made on one of the world's most remote islands off coast of Brazil (msn.com)

Pictures from above: What a bird's eye view of Africa reveals - BBC News

Heat pump blow as Government blamed for 'disappointing' £450million boiler scheme failure (msn.com)

A strange new secret about the Earth's inner core may have been discovered (msn.com)

The secret ingredient in Roman concrete that means buildings can last for millennia (msn.com)

Wind turbines are getting old. What happens to the ageing fleet? | Watch (msn.com)

Hunga-Tonga Hunga-Ha'apai eruption

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63953531>

Britain signs up old coal units as back-up in case of winter power crunch (msn.com)

Amazing moment neutron stars collide seen in world first video (msn.com)

This bubble barrier stops Amsterdam's canal plastic from reaching the North Sea | World Economic Forum (weforum.org) Also used in Holland's rivers.

Jupiter, too! New James Webb photos show giant planet's rings, moons and more (msn.com)

'Sand batteries' could be key breakthrough in storing solar and wind energy year-round (msn.com)

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# Lectures

## Harrow and Hillingdon Geological Society

Meetings are currently on Zoom. If you would like to join, and are not an HHGS member, please let Hilary Place know so that you can be sent the link. Non members can have three free meetings. After that we would want you to become a member.

Second Wednesday of the month. Login at 19:45

Date	Title	Speaker
14/6/23	The Geology of the Fforest Fawr Geopark	Alan Bowring
12/7/23	The Geology of the Black Country Geopark	

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# Harrow and Hillingdon Geological Society cont.

On their recent trip to the Suffolk coast they found that the Red Crag that they were trying to visit was being guarded by a rather scary Satyr.

