

STAR PROGRAMME 2023

All meetings at 2-00pm in the Keyworth Methodist Church

Monday 2nd October 2023:

Professor Will Irving – Professor of Virology, University of Nottingham will give a talk, "Hepatitis C virus: a success story for modern medicine "

Extract

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver.

The liver is a vital organ that processes nutrients, filters the blood, and fights infections. When the liver is inflamed or damaged, its function can be affected. Heavy alcohol use, toxins, some medications, and certain medical conditions can cause hepatitis.

Hepatitis A is caused by the hepatitis A virus. It's usually caught by consuming food and drink contaminated with the poo of an infected person, and is most common in countries where sanitation is poor.

Hepatitis B is caused by the hepatitis B virus, which is spread in the blood of an infected person.

It's a common infection worldwide and is usually spread from infected pregnant women to their babies, or from child-to-child contact.

It can also be spread through unprotected sex and injecting drugs.

Hepatitis C is caused by the hepatitis C virus.

It's usually spread through blood-to-blood contact with an infected person.

In the UK, it's most commonly spread through sharing needles used to inject drugs.

Poor healthcare practices and unsafe medical injections are the main way it's spread outside the UK.

Hepatitis C often causes no noticeable symptoms, or only flu-like symptoms, so many people are unaware they're infected. In a civilized world. Some people will fight off the infection and be free of the virus. In other cases, it'll stay in the body for many years.

This is known as chronic hepatitis C and can cause cirrhosis and liver failure.

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Monday 6th November 2023:

Clive Mitchell MSc CGeol - Industrial Minerals Geologist

Will give a talk with the title: *"Graphite in Africa: Carbon for Decarbonisation"*

Extract

Graphite is a crystalline form of carbon, a native element and one of the softest known minerals. As well as the long-standing use of graphite in applications such as refractories, brake linings, lubricants and pencils, it is also much sought after as a 'battery raw material' for use as the anode in lithium-ion batteries. Graphite is a Critical Raw Material with demand predicted to far outstrip supply by 2030; the hunt is on for graphite resources, particularly in Africa.

The UK and Zambian Governments recently signed an agreement to support development of a Critical Raw Materials supply chain in Zambia. As part of a new research project, Graphite in Africa, the BGS lead a reconnaissance exploration in the Eastern Province of Zambia looking for new sources of graphite.

Monday 4th December 2023:

Professor Bill Lockley of University of Surrey will be giving a talk with the title: *"What is Real?"*

Extract

When we look around us we experience something. We call this something *reality*. But what is it?

- Is it there when we are not experiencing it?
- How does it relate to our personal history and experiences?
- Is this thing we call *reality* really *real* or is it an illusion?
- What does current science say about our experience of *reality*? Can we investigate what is *real*? Does *reality* have a useful definition?

These are questions and concepts we will investigate and discuss in the meeting.