

University of the Third Age in Cambridge (CIO)

Norah Boyce Science lectures archives (in academic year order – most recent first)

2021 - 2022

AUTUMN TERM 2021

2 November

The joy of insect watching

Dr William Foster

16 November

Hey Siri! How smart are you?

Professor Steve Young

7 December

Why calories don't count

Dr Giles Yeo

2020 - 2021

SPRING TERM 2021

19 January

Epidemiology: from Covid-19 to protecting food security

Prof Chris Gilligan CBE, Department of Plant Sciences

2 February

Can we refreeze the Arctic?

Dr Hugh Hunt, Reader in Engineering Dynamics and Vibration

23 February

Antimicrobial resistance – why you should care

Dame Sally Davies FRS, Master of Trinity College and former Chief Medical Officer for England

2 March

SARS-CoV-2 Infection – Where are we now?

Prof Paul Lehner FMedSci, Professor of Immunology and Medicine

9 March

Beauty and the Beast: Matter, Antimatter and the Large Hadron Collider

Prof Valerie Gibson, Head of High Energy Physics Research Group, Cavendish Laboratory

27 April

Dyslexia, rhythm, language and the developing brain

11 May

Under the volcano

Professor Marian Holness

18 May

Vaxxers: The making of the Oxford vaccine

Professor Cath Green

2019 - 2020

AUTUMN TERM 2019

15 October

Applications of Graphene and Related Materials

Professor Andrea Ferrari (Director of The Graphene Centre)

12 November

How Insects Jump so Far and so Fast

Professor Malcolm Burrows FRS (Former Head of Department of Zoology)

26 November

The Fuel of Life

Sir John Walker FRS (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry)

10 December

Plastic Planet

Dr. Claire Barlow (Deputy Head of Department of Engineering)

SPRING TERM 2019

21 January

Will the Earth become too hot for your grandchildren to handle?

Prof Herbert Huppert FRS, Institute of Theoretical Geophysics

11 February

Arise, Sir Isaac! Newton's London career

Dr Patricia Fara, Emeritus Fellow of Clare College

3 March

The consequences of DNA mutations in our bodies throughout life

Sir Michael Stratton FRS, Director, Wellcome Sanger Institute

2018 - 2019

AUTUMN TERM 2018

9 October

Improving communication about medical treatments

Sir David Spiegelhalter FRS

23 October

Reverse engineering the violin

Professor Jim Woodhouse

20 November

The Optical Microscope in the Age of DNA

Dr Brad Amos FRS

4 December

The scientist & the art forger

Professor Jehane Ragai

SPRING TERM 2019

29 January

The start of life - How embryos build themselves from stem cells

Prof Magdalena Zernicka Goetz FMedSci

5 February

Protein aggregation in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases: towards a therapeutic target

Prof Maria Grazia Spillantini FMedSci FRS

12 February

Under the waves: volcanoes, earthquakes and life at the bottom of the deep blue sea

Prof Mary Fowler

19 February

Your place in the Cosmos

Prof Carolin Crawford

26 February

The Cambridge Conservation Initiative – Transforming the prospects for our natural world

Dr Mike Rands

5 March

Bragg, Perutz and Kendrew and the Origins of Molecular Biology

Sir John Meurig Thomas FRS

2017 - 2018

AUTUMN TERM 2017

17 October

The Wonder of Iron

Professor Sir Harry Bhadeshia FRS, Tata Steel Professor of Metallurgy

31 October

Translating Academic Research into New Cancer Therapies

Professor Steve Jackson FRS, Quick Professor of Biology

14 November

Food for Thought: Building a Simple Brain

Professor Andrea Brand FRS, Herchel Smith Professor of Molecular Biology and Royal Society Darwin Trust Research Professor

28 November

Astrophysical Black Holes

Professor Andy Fabian FRS, Royal Society Research Professor, Institute of Astronomy

SPRING TERM 2018

23 January

Thinking Like a Vegetable – How Plants Decide What to Do

Dame Ottoline Leyser FRS, Director of the Sainsbury Laboratory, Cambridge University

6 February

Bragg, Perutz and Kendrew and the Origins of Molecular Biology

Sir John Meurig Thomas FRS, Former Director of the Royal Institution, former Master of Peterhouse and former Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry.

20 February

Building Satellites: It's not Rocket Science

Tony Jorden, Former Satellite Engineer, Airbus Group

6 March

The Return of the Whale and the Redevelopment of the Museum of Zoology

Dr Roz Wade, Interpretation and Learning Officer, University Museum of Zoology

2016 - 2017

AUTUMN TERM 2016

11 October

Einstein, General Relativity and the Discovery of Gravitational Waves

Professor Malcolm Longair, Jacksonian Professor Emeritus of Natural Philosophy
University of Cambridge

25 October

Quantum Gravity and Spherical Chickens

Dr Ray Adams, Churchill College, Cambridge and U3AC Tutor

22 November

Wind, Wave and Tidal Power Generation; Reliability and the Cost of Energy

Dr Peter Tavner, Emeritus Professor School of Engineering and Computing, Durham

29 November

The work of the International Whaling Commission

Dr Simon Brockington, Chief Executive, International Whaling Commission

SPRING TERM 2017

17 January

Gyroscopes and Boomerangs

Dr Hugh Hunt, Reader in Engineering Dynamics and Vibration, Cambridge University

21 February

**The Beauty of Flavour: Latest results from the LHCb experiment at the Large Hadron Collider
Professor**

Professor Valerie Gibson, Head of the High Energy Physics Research Group in the Cavendish
Laboratory

14 March

Calcium and Vitamin D requirements for bone health

Dr Ann Prentice, Director, MRC Elsie Widdowson Laboratory Cambridge and Head of Nutrition and
Bone Health Group

SUMMER TERM 2017

9 May

Steve Austin was just ahead of his time!

Dr Ewen Kellar, The Welding Institute, Abington

2015 - 2016

AUTUMN TERM 2015

20 October

The Early History Of The Cavendish Laboratory

Malcolm Longair CBE FRS, Director of Development, Cavendish Laboratory
Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy Emeritus, Cavendish Laboratory

3 November

How Have Humans Evolved? Our History In Our DNA

Dr Ken Edwards, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester

1 December

A Tale of Three Caves

Professor Graeme Barker, recently retired from the Disney Chair of Archaeology in Cambridge.

8 December

A Winter's Tale: The First Noel?

Professor Bernard Golding, University of Newcastle

SPRING TERM 2016

26 January

Modelling with Mathematics

John Trapp, Researcher, Dept. of Maths and Statistics, Open University; Staff tutor, East Anglian Regional Office

9 February

Epigenetics: Telling your genes what to do

Dr Christel Krueger, Research Fellow in the Epigenetics Programme at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge

23 February

Cell division, the life and death machine – and why we haven't got a cure for cancer just yet

Dr. Bernhard Strauss, Research fellow at the Gurdon Institute, Cambridge

15 March

"Planet Earth – We have a Problem!"

David Wasdell – Director Apollo-Gaia Project

SUMMER TERM 2016

12 April

Planetary Space Weather – Radiation Belts Of The Solar System

Emma Woodfield, Space Weather and Atmosphere Group, British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge

26 April

What Is Ageing And What Can We Do About It?

Richard Faragher, Professor of Biogerontology, University of Brighton - past Chair of the British Society for Research on Ageing and of the International Association of Biomedical Gerontology

10 May

The Butterfly Effect

Professor Mike Thompson, Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics University of Cambridge

2014 - 2015

AUTUMN TERM 2014

21 October

What is matter?

Dr Jeremy Butterfield

Jeremy Butterfield FBA is a Senior Research Fellow in philosophy of physics at Trinity College, Cambridge.

4 November

How does understanding the genetics of rare diseases lead to new treatments?

Professor Nicholas Morrell

18 November

My life at Anglesey

Richard Ayres MBE

SPRING TERM 2015

13 January

The Once and Future Internet

Professor Jon Crowcroft FRS

27 January

Did Your Genes Play Dice When They Made Your Brain?

Professor Bill Harris FRS

17 March

Spots Before the Eyes – A Century of Diffraction Crystallography

Dr Erica Bithell, a Learning Technologist with the University Information Services, supporting and developing Cambridge University's Moodle virtual learning environment.

SUMMER TERM 2015

14 April

Battling the Bugs: Overcoming the Challenges of Antibiotic Resistance

Dr Christine Boinett

21 April

Frozen in Time: Ice Cores and Climate

Professor Eric Wolff FRS

2013 - 2014

AUTUMN TERM 2013

22 October

Floodplain Meadows: Patterns in Vegetation

Prof David Gowing

12 November

Alzheimer's Disease: Past, Present and Hope for the Future

Dr Eric H. Karran

26 November

Manufacturing at the Speed of Light

Prof Bill O'Neill, Professor of Laser Engineering within the Cambridge University Engineering Department and Director of the Centre of Industrial Photonics which he established in 2006. He is also a fellow of Downing College.

SPRING TERM 2014

21 January

Could feeling less anxious about climate change help us do more?

Dr Rosie Robison, Research Fellow at the Global Sustainability Institute (GSI), at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.

18 February

Heart of Darkness: Origin of Structure in the Universe

Dr Simon Mitton, Second Bursar and Steward, St Edmund's College.

11 March

What do genes, medieval manuscripts and Persian carpets have in common?

Prof Chris Howe, Professor of Plant and Microbial Biochemistry within the Department of Biochemistry, and a Fellow of Corpus Christi College

SUMMER TERM 2014

13 May

Ophiolites: what they are and why the Tethyan ophiolites are probably not remnants of the Tethys

Dr Alan Smith, Emeritus Reader, Department of Earth Sciences and a Fellow of St. John's College.

20 May

Demystifying Cancer

Dr Robin Hesketh, member of the Department of Biochemistry, Cambridge and fellow of Selwyn College

2012 - 2013

AUTUMN TERM 2012

16 October

Cambridgeshire Wildlife: Past Present and Future

Brian Eversham, Chief Executive for the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

13 November

The Magic of Movement: A Bird's Eye View

Professor Nicola S. Clayton, FRS

27 November

The Resilient Brain: Cognition and Ageing

Professor Lorraine K Tyler, FBA

SPRING TERM 2013

15 January

What are the Chances? Living with Risk and Uncertainty

Professor David Spiegelhalter, Winton Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk at the University of Cambridge and previously Senior Scientist in the MRC Biostatistics Unit.

19 February

Maintaining the Wires: Challenges and Solutions in the Ageing Nervous System

Dr Michael Coleman, Babraham Institute

5 March

How Plants Tell the Time

Dr Alex Webb, Reader in Cell Signalling in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge

SUMMER TERM 2013

14 May

Cambridge Sundials and Time

Dr Frank King, Praelector and Fellow in Computer Science at Churchill College.

21 May 2013

The Large Hadron Collider – The High Energy Frontier

Professor Valerie Gibson, Professor in High Energy Physics in the Cavendish Laboratory and Fellow and Director of Studies at Trinity College.

2011 - 2012

AUTUMN TERM 2011

18 October

Cuckoo versus hosts; an evolutionary arms race

Nick Davies, FRS

15 November

Antibiotics, virulence, faith, plagues....

Professor George Salmond

29 November

Sir Humphry Davy: Natural Philosopher, Discoverer, Inventor, Poet, Man of Action

Sir John Meurig Thomas, FRS

SPRING TERM 2012

17 January

Life's future in the universe

Professor Martin Rees, FRS (Lord Rees of Ludlow)

7 February

Letting off pressure – as simple as ABC

Professor Morris Brown, MD, FRCP

6 March

All power is theft

Dr Richard McMahon

SUMMER TERM 2012

24 April

Can study of the history of science explode myths?

Professor Martin Johnson, PhD, FRCOG

15 May

The wonder of wheels

Dr Chris Burgoyne

2010 - 2011

AUTUMN TERM 2010

Tuesday 19 October

Understanding visual perception

Jeremy Clare

Tuesday 2 November

RNA silencing: a new approach to control of disease in plants and animals

Professor Sir David Baulcombe, FRS

Tuesday 16 November

Cancer, DNA and Darwin

Professor Ron Laskey, FRS.

SPRING TERM 2011

Tuesday 25 January

Women and the history of science

Patricia Fara

Tuesday 8 February

Why do humans share food?

Professor Martin Jones

Tuesday 1 March

The perception of colour

Professor John Mollon, FRS

SUMMER TERM 2011

Tuesday 17 May

Intelligence in old age

Professor Nicholas Mackintosh, FRS

Tuesday 24 May

Life or death decisions at the cellular level

Professor Andrew Wyllie, FRS

2009 - 2010

AUTUMN TERM 2009

Tuesday 13 October

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy

Dr Hugh Hunt

Tuesday 20 October

Brain Gender

Professor Melissa Hines

Tuesday 24 November

Disease, Experiment and Physiology

Professor James Fitzsimons, MD, FRS

SPRING TERM 2010

Tuesday 19 January

Polar insects – survival of cold and climate change

Professor Bill Block

Tuesday 9 February

Stem Cells: Hope or Hype?

Dr Kate Quinlan and Professor Roger Pedersen

Tuesday 23 February

Discovering what genes do by knocking them out: control of puberty and fertility

Professor Bill Colledge

Tuesday 9 March

Post-war Ornithology in Cambridge

Peter Bircham

SUMMER TERM 2010

Tuesday 11 May

The Science and Beauty of Nebulae

Dr Carolin Crawford

Tuesday 25 May

Moving in an uncertain world: How the brain controls the body

Professor Daniel Wolpert, MD, Ph

2008 - 2009

AUTUMN TERM 2008

Thursday 16 October

Global Darwin

Professor James Secord, Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, Director of the Correspondence of Charles Darwin, Dept of the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

Thursday 30 October

GM crops and reflections on future food, feed, fuel, fibre and famine

Professor Philip J Dale, Emeritus Fellow of the John Innes Centre in Norwich

Thursday 13 November

Herbs or Pills? A Pharmacologist's Perspective

Dr Jenny Koenig, Dean, Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge

SPRING TERM 2009

Thursday 22 January

Towards the star trek tricorder - the science fact and fiction behind the genomic discovery of biomarkers

Dr Jules Griffin

Thursday 5 February

A new picture of the past

Carenza Lewis, Archaeologist

Thursday 19 February

Animal communication and the evolution of human language

Bert Vaux, University Lecturer in Linguistics

SUMMER TERM 2009

Tuesday 19 May

Earthquakes, volcanoes and continental drift

Dr Alan Smith, Emeritus Reader in the Earth Sciences Department of Cambridge University and a member of the U3AC.

Tuesday 2 June

A fresh look at the Scenery of Britain

Peter Friend, Earth Sciences Department of Cambridge University and author of a newly published book in the Collins New Naturalist Series on the landscape and geology of Southern England