

## Norah Boyce Science Lectures – Autumn term 2024

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These weekly lectures will take place on Tuesdays at 4.30 pm online via Zoom, except 29 October when the lecture is an in-person event (not on Zoom) held at the United Reformed Church, Downing Place. Doors open at 4.15 pm. Please note that work has been done to improve the acoustics at the venue since our last event.

The lectures are open to members only. When held by Zoom, the link for each lecture is on the Norah Boyce Lectures page of the website (you will need to log in to access this) and will be included in the weekly Bulletin during the week prior to the lecture and also emailed to Bulletin recipients on the morning of the Lecture.

Any last-minute changes to the programme will be publicised in the weekly Bulletin.

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### “Science for Everyone”

#### **15 October      How do flowers produce petals that attract pollinators?**

Speaker              Professor Beverley Glover, Director of Cambridge University Botanic Gardens.

Petals act as long-range advertisements that attract pollinators to flowers. We will discuss some of the clever tricks that enable them to stand out to the insect eye.

#### **29 October      Scientists and politicians, why are they incompatible?**

Speaker              Professor Herbert Huppert FRS, Institute of Theoretical Geophysics, Cambridge

Politicians very rarely know or understand much science, even though they have frequently to consider and make important scientific decisions, often rather rapidly. Scientists are generally not in a hurry to make a decision and if further data or ideas change their conclusions, they generally say so, and may even increase their reputation by doing so.

**Please note:** this lecture will take place in-person at the United Reformed Church, Downing Place. (Doors open at 4.15 pm).

#### **12 November    Pattern formation: the secret of (multicellular) life and the key to understanding development of the brain**

Speaker              Professor Jack Price, Emeritus Professor of Developmental Neurobiology, Institute for Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London.

How the ability to form patterns has driven evolution and development. How patterning is the key to understanding the complexity of the brain.

#### **26 November    New views of our universe with the James Webb Space Telescope**

Speaker              Dr Robin Catchpole, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge

After an introduction to the telescope; where it is, how it got there and how it works, we will see how, close to home, the telescope is finding evidence for possible life on planets around nearby stars and far away, what it tells us about the first few hundred million years of the life of the Universe.