

Public Events at The Chemistry Centre



Royal Society of Chemistry
Email: events@rsc.org
www.rsc.org/publiclectures
Registered Charity Number: 207890

Thomas Graham House
Science Park, Milton Road
Cambridge, CB4 0WF, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1223 420066

Burlington House
Piccadilly, London
W1J 0BA, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7437 8656

RSC International Offices
Beijing, China
Shanghai, China
Bangalore, India

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Philadelphia, USA
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Public Events at The Chemistry Centre

January – April 2012

Public Lecture
Wednesday 11 January
6.30pm
Free

Next few days to next few decades

Peter Gibbs, BBC Weather presenter and Met Office forecaster, will take a behind the scenes look at weather prediction. Weather forecasting is one of the few areas where scientists are expected to routinely predict the future. Technology such as satellites and supercomputers give meteorologists the firepower to achieve consistently good forecasts over periods of a few hours to a few days using sophisticated simulations, but chaos muddies the waters beyond that.

Public Lecture
Thursday 19 January
6.30pm
Free

A medicine cabinet in your garden?

Professor Monique Simmonds, Director of the Kew Innovation Unit, will give a talk on the research into the economic uses of plants and fungi, their potential as cosmetics, pharmaceutical and agrochemical leads, and as sources of sustainably harvested medicines.

This lecture is kindly sponsored by GSK.



Public Lecture
Thursday 2 February
6.30pm
Free

Global Transport 2050: scenarios and implications

Today, the transport sector represents a quarter of all CO₂ emissions and the World Energy Council predicts that this could be 80% higher in 2050. During the lecture Dr Karl Rose, Director of Policy & Scenarios at the World Energy Council, will set out two distinct scenarios for the global transport sector, before detailing the findings of a yearlong study into the future of the transport and mobility sector.

Chemical Lunchbox
Tuesday 14 February
12.30pm
£10 Adults/£6 Children
Lunch included

The Cognitive Lunchbox

For this special Valentine's Day lunchbox, Dr Jeremy Spencer, University of Reading, will examine the role of flavonoid-rich foods, such as blueberries, cocoa and red wine, which have been shown to promote a healthy heart and enhance our attention span. He will outline the evidence for the value of these foods and explain how they induce such beneficial changes in our bodies. You'll also get a chance to try some of these super foods!

Public Lecture
Thursday 1 March
6.30pm
Free

Genetic fingerprinting: past, present and future

Discovered in 1984, DNA fingerprinting has become an indelible part of society, helping to prove innocence or guilt in criminal cases, resolving immigration arguments and clarifying paternity. Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, the inventor of DNA fingerprinting, will discuss the origins of the technique through to the latest developments and their social impact.

Public Lecture
Thursday 15 March
6.30pm
Free

Age related illnesses

The number of people with dementia is estimated to rise to one million by 2025 with costs exceeding both cancer and heart disease combined. (Details to be confirmed.)

This lecture is kindly sponsored by GSK.



Chemical Lunchbox
Tuesday 3 April
12.30pm
£10 Adults/£6 Children
Lunch included

Soybeans – the world's healthiest food?

The inhabitants of the Japanese region of Okinawa are officially the longest lived population in the world and also have one of the lowest mortality rates from chronic illnesses like heart disease, cancer and dementia. This has in part been ascribed to their diet which is very high in soy-based foods like tofu. So is the consumption of soy a recipe for a long and healthy life and should we be eating more of it? Professor Ian Rowland, University of Reading, will explain the Asian origins of soy foods and their use in Japanese tofu and western foods. You will be surprised how tasty the soy foods in your lunchbox are!

Public Lecture
Thursday 12 April
6.30pm
Free

From test tube to Turner - the role of the chemist in art

A walk around any major art gallery will chart the changing face of fashion, housing and society, but probably more striking is that it also shows how humans have changed the colour of the world. Professor Andy Abbott, University of Leicester, looks at the changes in the artist's pallet from natural pigments through the work of the alchemist and the chemist to the current kaleidoscope of vibrant and even fluorescent colours.

These events are open to all, if you would like to attend please make sure you reserve your space. To do this please visit www.rsc.org/publiclectures