



The Lit & Phil in Newcastle is the largest independent UK library outside of London. Photo by Sally Ann Norman.

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Researchers prepare for a new series of public talks at The Lit & Phil

Academics from Northumbria University have teamed up with the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society, known as The Lit & Phil, to engage the public with their world-leading research through a new series of public talks.

The monthly programme called *NU Ideas at The Lit & Phil* features themed pairs of 20-minute talks from Northumbria researchers working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

“When I heard that the Lit and Phil was keen to expand its STEM coverage, I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to showcase what we do at Northumbria,” explained Professor Martyn Amos, co-coordinator of the *NU Ideas* programme. “We were delighted by the response from colleagues, and we’ve put together a diverse set of talks that we hope will contain something for everyone.”

Supported by Joe Shimwell of Northumbria’s [NUSTEM](#) project, which works with schools across the North East to nurture a passion for STEM subjects from an early age, Northumbria researchers will present short TED-talk style overviews of their work, with time for questions at the end of the session.

Established in 1793 and opened in 1825, The Lit & Phil is the largest independent UK library outside of London.

“The Lit & Phil is delighted to be able to work with Northumbria University on this innovative project,” said Head Librarian at The Lit & Phil, Kay Easson. “The promotion of cutting-edge STEM subjects is as important to us now as it was when the Society was founded.”

Each session will be held at The Lit and Phil, starting at 6pm, and entry is free but donations are appreciated. The full programme is below:

24 Jan

- Melody Sandells: *The Shape of Snow*
- Charlotte Goetz: *Hairy Stars in the Sky - the Plasma Tails of Comets*

22 Feb

- Emma Wightman: *Nutrition: When the Whole Tells More than the Sum of the Parts*
- Emma Barkus: *The Importance of Social Connection for Mental Health*

27 Mar

- Stephanie Helber: *Gardens Under the Ocean*

- Mike Jeffries: *Can Ponds Save the Planet?*

26 Apr

- Clare Watt: *Space Weather Forecasting*
- Adrian Jenkins: *What is Happening to the West Antarctic Ice Sheet?*

23 May

- Pat Randolph-Quinney: *Sex, Art, and Death: The Forensic Science of Human Evolution*
- Marc Etherington: *The Fever Tree: How Quinine Lit the Way Towards Modern Spectroscopy*

June

- Dirk van der Linden: *What Role Should Technology Play in our Pets' Lives?*
- Paul Vickers: *What Does Data Sound Like?*

Directions to the Lit and Phil can be found [here](#) and tickets can be booked [online](#).

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Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Business and Law / Arts, Design & Social Sciences

rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk

07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences

andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk

07708 509436



James Fox

Press Contact

Student Communications Manager

james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk

07377422415



Ruth Lognonne

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

ruth.lognonne@northumbria.ac.uk

07971274253



Gemma Brown

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

gemma6.brown@northumbria.ac.uk