No one has used more poisons, more often and more accurately than Dr Kathryn Harkup, freelance science communicator and writer. The Queen of Crime may have been writing fiction but it wasn’t all made up. Chemist and author Kathryn Harkup will explore the science and history of just a few of Christie’s killer compounds. A is for Arsenic: The Poisons of Agatha Christie

Dr Kathryn Harkup, freelance science communicator and writer.

No one has used more poisons, more often and more accurately than Dame Agatha Christie in her classic crime novels. Her toxic tally totals over thirty different compounds which she used to bump off over 100 characters. The Queen of Crime may have been writing fiction but it wasn’t all made up. Chemist and author Kathryn Harkup will explore the science and history of just a few of Christie’s killer compounds. Expect country houses, red herrings, chemical clues and magnificent moustaches.

A is for Arsenic: The Poisons of Agatha Christie

23 SEPTEMBER 2016, 7.00pm – audience 14+

21 OCTOBER 2016, 7.00pm – audience all ages

Tales from Television: bringing the natural world to your living room.

Dr George McGavin, Oxford University

Since leaving the world of academia, I have had the chance to travel the globe to meet all manner of wonderful animals on a number of filming trips with the BBC. Being able to share my passion for wildlife with a large audience is a great privilege. New camera technology can help make stunning footage for natural history programmes but the key to success is down to a lot of hard work, planning and a bit of luck. In this lecture we take a 'behind the scenes' look at some of the highs and lows of working in the field.

Tales from Television: bringing the natural world to your living room.

21 OCTOBER 2016, 7.00pm – audience all ages

25 NOVEMBER 2016, 7.00pm – audience 14+

The Square Kilometre Array – the future of radio astronomy

Prof Keith Grainge, The University of Manchester

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) will be the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope. It will address fundamental unanswered questions about our Universe including how the first stars and galaxies formed after the Big Bang, how the mysterious “dark energy” is accelerating the expansion of the Universe, the role of magnetism in the cosmos, the nature of gravity, and the search for life beyond Earth. The SKA will be a huge industrial project and in particular will be an exemplar Big Data project, with very challenging data transport and data processing requirements.

The Square Kilometre Array – the future of radio astronomy

BOOKINGS OPEN 21 OCTOBER 2016

20 JANUARY 2017, 7.00pm – audience 6+

Alder Hey: the world’s first living hospital

Mr Iain Hennessey, Alder Hey Children's Hospital

How do you bring a hospital to life? Using a mixture of artificial intelligence, senior technology and gaming, Alder Hey is on a 20 year journey to create the worlds first living hospital. Working with partners such as the STFC, IBM, Sony and a huge array of small companies, the innovation team are creating the technologies that can make this ambition a reality.

Alder Hey: the world’s first living hospital

BOOKINGS OPEN 16 DECEMBER 2016

17 FEBRUARY 2017, 1.00pm – audience 7+

Eat My Science!

Stefan Gates, TV writer, presenter and author

The BBC’s Stefan Gates (Incredible Edibles, Food Factory, Cooking in the Danger Zone) takes you on an explosive, stomach-churning adventure through the amazing chemistry, physics and biology of your food. There’ll be some extraordinary sensory perception adventures, food rockets, flavour cannons, edible insects and culinary flame throwing, as well as lots of audience participation and the opportunity to taste some extraordinary foods. All in the name of science, you understand. Leave your hang-ups at the door: this could get messy.

Eat My Science!

BOOKINGS OPEN 13 JANUARY 2017

9 MARCH 2017, 7.00pm – audience 14+

Space rocks on ice: Hunting for meteorites in Antarctica

Dr Katherine Joy, University of Manchester

Meteorites shed light on the origin of the Solar System and on the geological history of different planetary bodies. Antarctica is unique collection ground for meteorites – it is very cold so preserves well, the black meteorites are easy to spot against the white ice, and meteorites samples are often concentrated together on the ice along the Transantarctic mountain range. I will outline my experience in travelling to collect meteorites with the US Antarctic Search for Meteorites Programme, and talk about the scientific reasons we go and collect these stones from space.

Space rocks on ice: Hunting for meteorites in Antarctica

BOOKINGS OPEN 2 FEBRUARY 2017

21 APRIL 2017, 6.00pm – audience 7+

Weird Creatures

Nick Baker, Naturalist and Television Presenter

Learn about the Baggy Frog from Lake Titicaca, the Olm from Slovenia and the little known Fluffy.

In this exciting live show, Nick tells his personal journey of how he has travelled the world over in search of weird and wonderful creatures and of the trials and tribulations he has faced being an obsessed naturalist.

This family friendly live show is based on the popular TV series Weird Creatures on Animal Planet channel. Along with some revealing ‘behind the scenes’ moments of filming wild and weird creatures Nick will also explain why some animals appear weird to us and how their strange looks and habits are actually born of an evolutionary need to tackle some unique habitats and situations.

Weird Creatures

BOOKINGS OPEN 17 MARCH 2017