Heatons and Reddish U3A

Science Group Programme Autumn/Winter 2026



The Science group was been formed to explore and learn about the wonders of science in its broadest sense; biology, physics, chemistry, engineering and maybe even some gentle mathematics.

You don't need to have been a Scientist or Engineer to appreciate science and talks will be pitched at a level where no prior knowledge is assumed.

Visits to scientifically interesting locations (museums, visitor centres) will be arranged from time to time. The plan is to make each meeting stand alone so members need not feel obliged to come along each month, although most do.

Coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk each month.



Members who have provided their email address will be sent an email announcing each meeting a few weeks ahead and a reminder on the Saturday before each meeting

Those not already on the distribution list and who want to notification of these meetings can send a message from the "click to contact" link on this page and they will be included.

Topics will range through

- Discoveries and inventions
- The Scientists - interesting lives
- Applications of science
- Impact of science on society

Topics for recent and forthcoming meetings are:

28 September 2026	Portable Defibrillator	Cecil Lowry
26 October 2026	Mass Spectrometry	Paul Humphrey
23 November 2026	Honey Bees	Damson Tregaskis
28 December 2026	NO MEETING	
25 January 2027	Photosynthesis	Anne Beswick
22 February 2027	Isaac Newton: Scientist or Sorcerer	Peter Williams

DETAILED PROGRAMME

28 SEPTEMBER 2026 – Cecil Lowry will speak about his biography of Frank Pantridge the British World War II veteran and Japanese POW camp survivor who went on to create the life-saving portable defibrillator.

26 OCTOBER 2026 – Paul Humphrey will introduce us to mass spectrometry, a powerful analytical technique and describe it's many and varied uses, it's types, it's history and it's connections to the Manchester region.

23 NOVEMBER 2026 – Damson Tregaskis makes a welcome return visit to talk about the life cycle of the honey bee, the fascinating insect that has been adopted as the symbol of Manchester.

DECEMBER 2026 – No meeting.

25 JANUARY 2027 – Anne Beswick will speak about photosynthesis, the process that is fundamental to the maintenance of life on Earth.

22 FEBRUARY 2027 - Isaac Newton was arguably England's most important scientist. Most people will be aware that he discovered gravity but only a few will know about his wider interests including some which are rather unusual.