

# Café Scientifique

## 2005-6

*For the events listed below no booking is required and the events are free.*

*A collection will be made during the evening to cover costs. Refreshments are available at these two venues: please arrive in good time to allow the speaker to start without disruption. We look forward to seeing you there.*

**Monday 19th September 2005,  
8.00 pm**

**Venue: Baltic Café (Baltic Art Gallery,  
Gateshead Quays)**

### **What can science learn from art?**

Lewis Wolpert has said that while art can be inspired by science, scientists have nothing to learn from art. Stephen Webster, from the Imperial College Science Communications team, has been interviewing scientists about their involvement in sci-art projects and will explain why he thinks that the influences go both ways. Dr Anya Hurlbert, a Newcastle University neuroscientist, will respond.

**Monday 17th October 2005,  
7.30 pm**

**Venue: The Atrium, Central Square,  
Forth Street (behind Newcastle Central  
Station)**

**Aren't we all neurotic? Why the  
antidepressant controversy  
won't go away**

Dr Michael Barr (Bios Centre, LSE) asks: Are antidepressants good medical care or just good business? Who should be prescribed such drugs? Can biochemistry explain and treat an existential crisis? Is there a future for psychotherapy? Formerly of PEALS, Michael moved to the LSE in 2004 to explore these and related questions. So come and join the debate on an issue that has recently attracted international attention.

**Monday 21st November 2005,  
7.30 pm**

**Venue: The Atrium, Central Square,  
Forth Street (behind Newcastle Central  
Station)**

**Fuel Cells & the Hydrogen  
Economy - Tees Lights The Way  
Forward**

Ben Mayo introduces us to fuel cells, the new energy alternative: engines which are twice as efficient as internal combustion, silent, and emit little more than water. Over the next few years we will be starting to use them to power everything from

laptops to buses. Our region has most of the attributes required to be right at the forefront of this exciting new technology. A Tees light house will be using fuel cells in the near future. Ben is the Director of the Fuel Cell Applications Facility at the Centre for Process Innovation on Teesside.

## **Monday 16th January 2006**

**Time and venue to be confirmed.**

### **A New Year: A New You: 2006**

Amelia Lake (Newcastle University) gets to grips with those seasonal resolutions about diet and health. Are you all going to take out gym membership and set optimistic goals? Will you eat those five fruit and veg? Are you all going to take out gym membership and set optimistic goals? Is behaviour change at this time of year really a good idea, and do we need to change our behaviour?

## **Monday 20th February 2006**

**Time and venue to be confirmed.**

### **Uncanny Valley: Living with Living Machines**

For the last forty years, scientists around the world have been working towards realising the dream of creating humanoid robots. Now, as walking, thinking and even feeling robots and androids take their first tentative steps into reality, writer Richard Evans outlines the latest robotics research and discusses the far-reaching ethical and social implications of the coming world of

artificial helpers, friends and lovers. Richard researched his acclaimed futuristic thrillers *Machine Nation* and *Robophobia* at MIT, sponsored by Arts Council England.

## **Design Your Own Cafe**

*Do you have ideas for future topics for Café Scientifique? Is there a regional speaker from whom you'd particularly like to hear? We would like to share the planning for the Cafés scheduled for March 2006 onwards with you. If you have ideas for a topic, a speaker, or even a location, please get in touch with us via our Freepost address (Café Scientifique, PEALS, Freepost NAT6133, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4BR), email [peals@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:peals@ncl.ac.uk) or leave a message on 0191 241 8659. We will also be asking for suggestions during the next few Cafés.*

**For more information about café scientifique, email [peals@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:peals@ncl.ac.uk), phone 0191 241 8614 or visit our website: [www.ncl.ac.uk/peals/dialogues/cafescientifique.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/peals/dialogues/cafescientifique.htm), or the national network website ([www.cafescientifique.org](http://www.cafescientifique.org)).**