



As and A2 Biology Students

During National Science and Engineering Week there are a number of very relevant and interesting events and lectures. Most of these are free of charge, but booking is required. See www.newcastlesciencefest.co.uk and search Events for further details. Here are some examples.

Asiprin the Wonder Drug. 16th March, 6-7pm. Centre for Life

Join Professor Sir John Burn on a journey from ancient Greece via an 18th Century English clergyman and a victim of the holocaust to a new discovery; this is the story of aspirin, the first blockbuster drug, still full of surprises. John will review the latest discoveries by his international research team which has provided the final proof that aspirin can prevent cancer.

How Dawkin Rewrote Darwin's Legacy. 16th March 7-8pm. Dance City

In 1858, Charles Darwin's pioneering and then unpublished theory of evolution was unveiled to a small group of eminent scientists and professors. Now, over one hundred and fifty years later, Fern Elsdon-Baker - Head of the British Council's Darwin Now International Project - enters the evolutionary debate with her own controversial offering, The Selfish Genius.

Fern Elsdon-Baker will re-open public and scientific debate about where we come from and where we are heading.

Primate Communication. 16th March, 7-8pm. City Library

An award winning lecture by Dr Katie Slocombe, exploring chimpanzee vocal communication. Discover what different calls mean, and how comparing human communication to non-human primate communication can help us uncover how language – one of our most remarkable capacities – evolved.

The Future of Stem Cells. 17th March, 6-7.30pm. Centre for Life

There has been a great deal in the news about stem cells and their potential as new therapies. How much of it is true? Journalist and commentator, Quentin Cooper, chairs a panel discussion on the future of stem cells. Panellists include: Dr Ruth McKernan, Head of Pfizer's Regenerative Medicine Unit, who will explain the treatments that are likely to become available in the future, and Mr Francisco Figueiredo, who is looking at the possibility that stem cells could be used to cure blindness.