

# The ATOM Society Newsletter

## Message from the new Chair



Since the ATOM Society AGM in November, the new committee has been busy coming up with plans and ideas for 2015, starting with a talk in January titled 'Snapshot Serengeti'. We are also setting up a website, but will continue with our Facebook page, so please 'like' us on [www.Facebook.com/AtomSocietyAbingdon!](http://www.Facebook.com/AtomSocietyAbingdon)

I hope to see you at an ATOM Society meeting soon. Please encourage your friends to come too: non-members pay just £3, which is reimbursed if they join the Society.

With warm wishes from all of us on your ATOM Society committee,  
**Carl Lloyd**

## Upcoming talks and events

**Thursday 22 January 7.30 pm, Kings Head and Bell (King Charles Room)**  
**ATOM Society meeting**

### **Snapshot Serengeti: Carnivores, Camera Traps and Citizen Science**

Dr Alexandra Swanson (The Zooniverse, University of Oxford)

At this very moment in Serengeti National Park, 225 cameras are flashing day and night, capturing the secret lives of Africa's most elusive animals. This is *Snapshot Serengeti*, the largest remote camera survey in the world. Established in 2010 to study how large carnivores divided up the landscape, the *Snapshot Serengeti* cameras have captured more than 1.5 million images of more than 48 wildlife species. Volunteers from around the world help classify animals from this survey through the Zooniverse's citizen science website [www.SnapshotSerengeti.org](http://www.SnapshotSerengeti.org). In this talk Alexander Swanson will dive into the story of Snapshot Serengeti: the scientific questions that inspired it, the adventures of the fieldwork behind it, and the lessons learned.

Please feel free to bring a friend to any ATOM Society talks, although non-members will be invited either to join the Society or to make a £3 contribution on the day.

## 18 – 21 March in Abingdon

### ATOM! Festival

The full programme for the 2015 Atom Festival will be announced in January and booking can then be made via the website or at one of the ticket outlets in Abingdon. Details will follow.

**ATOM Society members will be given a 20% discount on ticket sales.**

#### Help wanted

The Festival Steering Committee would welcome help from members of the ATOM Society before and during the ATOM Festival next March. Tasks where members help would be appreciated include - Manning the Community Shop, directing people at ATOM events, helping at the Information Desk, Ticket checking, Publicity and help with the Science Treasure Hunt.

**If you are willing to help, please contact Emma Clare at [emma@oxscifest.org](mailto:emma@oxscifest.org)**

## Recent talks and events

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014: 7:30 Kings Head and Bell (King Charles Room)**

### ATOM Society meeting

#### AGM

The ATOM Society was officially formed at the AGM that took place at the start of the Society meeting. In particular, the draft constitution was approved and the members of the new committee were voted in (see list below). The Members expressed their thanks to James White who formed and Chaired the interim committee earlier in the year and will remain on the committee as the ATOM Festival representative.

Minutes of the meeting can be obtained on request from [Sec.AtomSociety@gmail.com](mailto:Sec.AtomSociety@gmail.com)

**Communication Revolution** Presentation by Dr Peter Leigh, ATOM Society member  
None of today's technologies would be possible without semi-conductors and micro-technology. Devices that 50 years ago filled entire labs (just think of Alan Turing's Enigma cracker) now easily fit into your phone. With over forty years of experience in semiconductor materials and thin film technology to draw on, he explained what makes semiconductors so special, providing fascinating insight into their applications and explaining how the technology of device miniaturisation has developed.

**Top IT Disasters** Presentation by Dr Giles Moran, ATOM Society member

Ever heard of a computer going wrong? It can! Just remember the recent air traffic control problems in the UK. Computers can help us, but the more we rely on them the more the consequences of their failure become bad really fast. Dr Giles Moran, a lead developer with ANSYS, provided an entertaining rainbow of events that went wrong in information technology. The question that remains is: how can we prevent this in the future? For that answer we will have to wait for another talk.

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## The ATOM Society

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### Who's it for?

Membership of the ATOM Society is open to anyone sixteen years old or over who has an interest in science and technology or would like to find out more.

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### What do we do?

- **Talks**

We meet at 7.30 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December), the highlight being a talk on a subject of broad scientific interest. Meetings are currently held in the King Charles Room of the Kings Head and Bell, East St Helen Street, Abingdon. With a break and question and answer session the meetings generally conclude about 9:30 pm.

- **Visits**

Visits for ATOM Society members will be organised.

- **ATOM Festival**

The ATOM Society supports the ATOM Science Festival in Abingdon. The first such festival took place in March 2014; the next will be held in March 2015.

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### Membership

- **Benefits**

Members of the ATOM Society benefit from

- Free attendance to our regular talks and events
- A voice in shaping the Society

- **How much?**

Yearly membership of the ATOM Society is £20 for an individual, or £30 for a family. Guests are welcome to attend society meetings for a £3 fee each time.

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### How to join

If you haven't already done so, **join the ATOM Society today!** You can complete a membership forms available at the next meeting or print out the form attached with this newsletter and bring it with you.

## The Committee 2014 - 15

Carl Lloyd	Chair
Sian Owen	Secretary
Richard Gardner	Treasurer
Mike Green	Newsletter
Vicky Walker	Programme coordination
Alfons Weber	Mädchen für Alles
James White	ATOM Festival representative

For ATOM Society enquiries or feedback please email: [Sec.AtomSociety@gmail.com](mailto:Sec.AtomSociety@gmail.com)