



Thames Valley Network

Study Day

Cosmology: Big Bang to Big Rip?

Wednesday 4 March 2015

Ladygrove Meeting Room, Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road,
Didcot, OX11 7HN

Are you fascinated by the birth of the universe? Did it all happen with a big bang? Recent years have seen a revolution in our understanding of the universe, and this in turn has led to challenging new ideas and speculations about the world we live in. Is it especially designed to support life? Are there other parallel universes? Are there other dimensions? How will it all end? Was the Big Bang really the beginning? The day will look at the current best theory of how we got to our present state, and then explore some of the more exotic ideas.

The Keynote speaker will be **Dr Roger Luther**. Having taught in secondary schools until 2000, he then moved into higher education, and after achieving a PhD in maths at Sussex University, he has been lecturing there ever since, recently also earning an MSc in Particle Physics, as a student! He has had a lifelong interest in theoretical physics and cosmology, and has lectured to various lay audiences on these topics. You may also have seen him on Mastermind in October 2008!

The Study Day provisional programme is:

10:00	Arrive/Registration/Coffee
10:20	Introduction
10:30	SESSION 1: What we know: an expanding universe, formed about 14 billion years ago in the Big Bang, whose relics we now observe
11:45	SESSION 2: What we think we know: the events of the first micro-second, including inflation, and its possible recent verification; dark matter and dark energy, and the accelerating universe
13:00	LUNCH
14:00	SESSION 3: What we're not at all sure of: other dimensions, the multiverse, the anthropic principle.
15:30	Summary and Question and Answer Session
16:00	Finish

The venue for the study day is Ladygrove Meeting Room, Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7HN. There is plenty of parking at the hall and bus services stop nearby.

The Study Day Fee is £11.00. This includes participation in the full programme plus coffee/tea on arrival. A buffet/sandwich lunch is available for £6.00. Members of U3As not affiliated to the Thames Valley Network are welcome at an additional fee.

Further information can be obtained from :

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