

## U3A EXPLORES **SCIENCE** AT THE Ri

**Tuesday 30th March 2010 at 1.30pm for 2pm**

**At the Royal Institution of Great Britain**

**21 Albemarle Street, London W1**

(meeting finishes about 5pm)

Each year the Royal Institution and the U3A team up to produce an afternoon of the best speakers from the Ri's programme on a variety of subjects.

The speakers are as follows (see overleaf for synopses):

Astrobiology — the hunt for alien life - Dr Lewis Dartnell, astrobiologist UCL

Towards a leaner, fitter future - Professor Susan Jebb, Medical Research Council

Magnetic healing: The real power and mystery of magnets for healthcare  
Professor Quentin Pankhurst, Director of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory at the Ri.

Places are limited. Admission is by ticket only at £15 each including refreshments.

***We cannot give refunds but may be able to offer your ticket to any waiting list if you are unable to attend.***

Applications can be sent immediately.

Tickets, programmes and maps will be sent out from late January onwards.

Please apply in writing to:

The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE enclosing a 30p stamp for up to 4 tickets, a large letter stamp (47p) if you require more (maximum 15 tickets per applicant) and a cheque made payable to The Third Age Trust.

You will be notified immediately if the event becomes over-subscribed and asked if you wish to be placed on the waiting list.

Details are also available on the U3A website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)  
In the Members' area under events

### **Astrobiology – the hunt for alien life - Dr Lewis Dartnell, astrobiologist UCL**

'Astrobiology' is a brand new field of science, encompassing research into the origins and limits of life on our own planet, and where life might exist-beyond the Earth. But what actually is 'life' and how did it emerge on our own world? What are the most extreme conditions terrestrial life can tolerate? And what would an alien actually look like - how realistic are the life-forms envisaged by science fiction novels and films over the years? Join Dr Lewis Dartnell on a tour of the other planets and moons in our solar system which may harbour life, and even further afield to alien worlds orbiting distant stars, to explore one of the greatest questions ever asked: are we alone...?

### **Towards a leaner, fitter future - Professor Susan Jebb, Medical Research Council**

We are facing a fat future. Today 1 in 4 adults are obese and, if present trends continue, data from England shows that 9 out of 10 of today's children will grow up to be overweight or obese. Some data suggests that the recent increases in weight among children may underestimate the true increase in fatness, because low levels of physical activity may be leading to a parallel decline in muscle mass. This increasing weight of the nation predicts a surge in obesity-related disease, especially diabetes, and is already placing a heavy toll on health and well-being. The awareness of obesity as a serious health issue has risen across all sections of society; the challenge is now to turn the concern into action towards a leaner, fitter future.

### **Magnetic healing: The real power and mystery of magnets for healthcare**

**Professor Quentin Pankhurst**, Director of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory at the Ri.

From Mesmer to MRI, our fascination with the invisible power of magnetism has always been strong - but when it comes to 'magnetic healing', how much of it is fact, and how much fiction? Quentin Pankhurst, a nanotechnology expert, and the Director of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory at the Royal Institution, will discuss with us the fascinating field of healthcare biomagnetics.