



# STAR GROUP NEWSLETTER

**No 6 - August 2016**

## **WHAT HAS STAR GROUP BEEN DOING?**

STAR Group has just started it's FOURTH Year in existence when we held our last Meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

I am truly grateful to all those members who have made this group so successful over the past three years.

My special thanks to Graham Payne for supporting us with the A/V Equipment and for giving numerous informative and entertaining talks.

Also to David Highley, Robin Wilcockson, Paul Roebuck and Anthony Smith who have all produced some very interesting presentations and suggested specific items for inclusion.

And to Pat Smith and Selwyn Howle who have helped me in suggesting items for or programme of events. Also to Ros Jones who has helped me with site visits and Peter Edge for supporting STAR Items on the U3A STAR Website..

I would also like to thank Linda, Olivia, Ros and all the other members who helped to provide us with refreshments at mid-point in our sessions.

**In June: *Andrew Bloodworth***, who is Science Director of Minerals and Waste at the British Geological Survey, gave us a very interesting talk on '**The secret life of the mobile phone.**' It explored the various issues surrounding .the supply of the many exotic metals that are used in mobile phones and how difficult it will be to obtain materials in future.

**In July: Tony Malins** Drew on his 40 year's experience in the Electricity Supply Industry to talk to us about Wind Generators in a talk entitled **Wind Generators – Love them or Loathe them.**

Tony explained how the various sources of power generation had to be synchronized very accurately and he went on to discuss various types of Power Generators and how vulnerable we could be if we do not plan to produce enough alternative sources of power to meet our future usage forecasts.

**In August: Professor Frazer Pearce** came to us from the University of Nottingham to give us a talk entitled **SETI – ARE WE ALONE?**

Frazer talked to us about the **Drake Equation** and went into some detail of each element of the equation and what it means.

We also discussed the **Fermi Paradox** in which, the physicist, **Enrico Fermi**, quickly recognised that if a race of super intelligent beings on a planet in our Galaxy had achieved the ability to travel throughout the Milky Way they could have achieved this well within a million years (a mere morsel in Astronomical terms) so - he argued - Where are they all?

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE STAR –GROUP WILL BE ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE KEYWORTH METHODIST CHURCH, SELBY LANE, KEYWORTH AT 2-00PM.**

**Tony Smith** will be giving a talk entitled **'Working animals - a sustainable source of energy in tropical countries'.**

This talk will be about working animals in tropical countries w.r.t. cultivation, transport, raising water and also as sources of milk and biogas. This will also cover some work that Tony did at Edinburgh University.

**A FULL PROGRAMME OF STAR GROUP EVENTS CAN BE SEEN ON THE STAR GROUP SECTION OF THE U3A WEBSITE. EVENTS**