

Chester U3A - Popular Science Survey

At the Popular Science meeting on 19th February 2014, 14 people completed a questionnaire. We will be using the results to help us plan further meetings. If you missed the meeting but would like to complete the survey, please email Janet Money to send you a copy (popularscience@chesteru3a.org.uk).

7 members learned about the meeting from the newsletter (of which 2 read it on line), 6 from a U3A meeting, 2 are regular attenders, 1 from personal recommendation.

3 members were attending for the first time, 6 members have been to between 2 and 6 meetings, and 5 members have come to most or all meetings.

All members would recommend the meeting to a friend.

All members found the length of the meeting about right.

1 member found the level of difficulty too easy; all the rest thought the level is about right.

We asked what members most liked about the meetings and they gave us the following answers:

Learning something new (6), meeting other like-minded people (4), range of subjects (2), friendly and accessible (5), general atmosphere of a lecture theatre (1)

We asked if there was anything they disliked. All the responses related to the lecture theatre:

No induction loop and speakers don't use microphones; steps can be difficult; seats are hard and give no back support, smell of resin in the theatre.

Members suggested the following topics for future sessions:

Architecture

Environment: Weather and climate change; Environmental issues

Energy: Shale Gas extraction pros and cons; Sustainable energy including cost effectiveness and impact on global warming

Technology: Communication including radios; Other technology topics

People: Alfred Russell Wallace; Handedness - science, technology and social attitudes; Positive health

Biology: Snakes - facts and myths; How does your hair grow (repeat)

Physics: How the universe was formed, and the theory of the multiverse; Astronomy (more of!)

Oceanography:

Response:

We can't do much about the lecture theatre I'm afraid. The School hosts the meeting free of charge (and provides us with free coffee and technical support). The theatre is designed for school children so we are unlikely to get a loop system or better seats, although I understand an upgrade to the theatre is planned. If you find the steps difficult please take a seat at the front, and let me know if you need help. I suggest you bring a cushion if you need more support.

Thank you for your suggested topics. We depend on U3A members to prepare talks, so please be inspired by this list - I am open to offers.

Janet Money (popularscience@chesteru3a.org.uk), 19th February 2014