BIRMINGHAM POPULAR MATHEMATICS LECTURES Open to all members of the public

Open to all members of the public and the University. Particularly suitable for those studying mathematics at A-level. We also welcome advanced GCSE students. The lectures are free of charge. There is no need to register for groups of under 10 people.

Wednesdays monthly at 7.30pm, Watson Building, University of Birmingham

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18th January 2017 Prof Robin Wilson 'The Story of π'

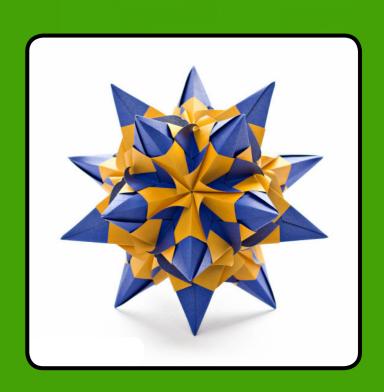
This talk will cover the entire history of π , from the ancient Egyptians and Mesopotamians, via Archimedes, China and the Middle Ages, to the Indiana court case and the advances of the modern computer age.

Robin Wilson is an Emeritus Professor of Pure Mathematics at the Open University and Emeritus Professor of Geometry at Gresham College, London. He has written and edited many books on the history of mathematics, including Lewis Carroll in Numberland, and also on graph theory, including Introduction to Graph Theory and Four Colours Suffice. He has Erdős Number 1.

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15th February 2017 Dr Allan Lo 'Sudoku - a special Latin square'

A Sudoku is a mathematical puzzle appearing in many newspapers. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with numbers 1, 2, .., 9 such that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 subgrids contains every number precisely once. While completing these puzzles is fun and challenging, there are many related mathematical results and applications. For instance, a completed Sudoku is an example of a Latin square, which has already been studied back in the 1770s. I will talk about the history of Latin squares as well as their influences in the modern society.



15th March 2017 Dr Jonathon Meddaugh 'Origami and Mathematics'

Origami allows for an incredible variety of objects to be constructed from a simple sheet of paper. Traditional origami creations include relatively simple shapes including the familiar origami crane. Modern origami artists have pushed the limits of the medium and through the clever use of geometry have been able to create some truly amazing art. The art of origami is of course significantly informed by the mathematics, but perhaps more surprisingly, mathematics can be informed by origami. We will discuss applications of origami in geometric constructions and the design of airbags and telescope lenses.

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