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LICHFIELD **GARRICK**
Theatre & Studio

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8:00 pm on Tuesday, 11th June 2019
in the Studio Theatre of the Lichfield Garrick, Lichfield, WS13 6HR

THE BRAVE NEW WORLD OF CRISPR GENE EDITING

Professor Matthew Cobb
University of Manchester

The recently-discovered technique known as CRISPR has made it possible to change genes in any species, including our own. In China, a researcher has recently edited the genes of two embryos, producing changes that will be passed to any offspring they may eventually have. By linking CRISPR to another genetic trick, it is possible to spread changes rapidly through wild populations of animals or plants, leading to rapid alterations or even the disappearance of entire species. We now have virtually unlimited power over the ecosystem and over our own destinies – in 2016, James Clapper, the US Director of National Intelligence, classified CRISPR as a weapon of mass destruction. How should we use this new power? Should we use it at all? In this talk Matthew Cobb will simply explain how CRISPR works, and focus on how we all come to a decision about what should be done with it.

Matthew Cobb is Professor of Zoology at the University of Manchester. Although he has never CRISPR'd anything in his life, he is extremely concerned by the potential for bad – and good – represented by CRISPR, arguing that this technology is too important to be left to the scientists. He is author of a number of books, including *Life's Greatest Secret: The Race to Crack the Genetic Code* (Profile Books, 2015).

For further information, please see our website at www.LSES.org.uk
Students and Members Free.

Visitors £5.00. Tickets are not issued in advance, please pay at the door.

Members must sign in. Those signing in before 7:50 pm will have precedence over all visitors.

This lecture is expected to finish by 10.00 pm.