



Lichfield Science & Engineering Society



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FANTASTIC BLOOD GROUPS AND HOW TO FIND THEM

**Dr Louise Tilley
NHS Blood and Transplant**

**8:00 pm on Thursday 5th February 2026
In the Studio Theatre of the Lichfield Garrick**

Since 2003 Dr Louise Tilley has been a senior research scientist at the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL). Her research focusses on elucidating the genetic backgrounds of rare blood groups and she has been involved in the discovery and characterisation of numerous novel blood groups. In 2025 she was honoured to receive an award from the American Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies for "field-advancing research in immunohaematology and particularly for the significant discovery of a new blood group system". She has authored/co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and abstracts in respected scientific journals, in addition to review articles, commentaries and book chapters.

Understanding blood groups is vital to ensure safe blood transfusion and for the care of expectant mothers and their unborn babies, where incompatibilities can have severe, or even fatal consequences. The most well-known, and most important blood groups are ABO and RhD, but there are many more, including some which have only just been discovered, governed by more than 50 genes. IBGRL specialises in resolving complex blood group problems from all around the world, ensuring that the best possible care can be offered to all patients, even those with the rarest blood groups. This lecture will provide an overview of blood groups; what they are, why they are important, how we can test for them, and how (and why) we discover new blood groups.

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

Visitors £8.00. Tickets are not issued in advance, please pay at the door. (Cash only please.)
Members must sign in. Those signing in before 7:50 pm will have precedence over all visitors.
This lecture is expected to finish by 9.30 pm.