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LICHFIELD **GARRICK**
Theatre & Studio

PRESIDENT

Professor Peter A Lambert

8:00 pm on Tuesday, 8th October 2019

in the FURTHER IMPROVED Studio Theatre of the Lichfield Garrick

ELEMENT TALES– STORIES FROM THE PERIODIC TABLE

Professor Mark Lorch, University of Hull

2019 is the International year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements, marking 150 years since Russian scientist Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev first constructed a version of the now familiar table. Mendeleev was not the only chemist to devise a table of the known elements but was the first to use it to predict the existence of thitherto unknown ones. His table classifies elements by atomic number and atomic weight so that elements with similar chemical properties appear in the same column and the order of the atomic weights suggests the existence of "new" elements to fill in gaps in the table. Some of the most recently discovered ones have atomic weights so high that they decay, within fractions of a second, to elements lower in the table.

But there is no single definitive version of the table, over the last 150 years it has inspired literally hundreds of variants. And it has been the battle ground for debates over elemental properties, discoveries and naming conventions.

Through it all the Periodic table has emerged as one of the most important and influential icons of modern science.

Mark Lorch is Professor of Chemistry and Science Communication at the University of Hull. Along with his research and teaching, Mark is a prolific science writer, penning pieces for The Guardian, Scientific American and The New Humanist, as well as a book here and there. Join him as he takes you on a journey through the Periodic Table, tells stories and describes its controversies, greatest moments and hidden secrets.

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

Visitors £7.00. 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.