

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A SCIENCE SEMINAR ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

## Space Exploration: Rockets and the Moon

The speaker for this seminar is Professor David Southwood, who spoke to us last October at the Study Day at Paddock Wood. Professor Southwood is a planetary scientist, currently Chairman of the Steering Board of the UK Space Agency, Senior Research Investigator at Imperial College, and a past President and Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

**Date:** Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**Venue:** The Main Hall, The Camden Centre, Tunbridge Wells

**Cost:** £6 per person

**Programme:**

**from** 2.30 p.m. Registration

David Southwood in front of V2 rocket at Peenemunde

Photo by Sue Southwood



2.50 – 3.50 The first lecture, **The Dawn of the Space Age.** The space age began independently first in Tsarist Russia and then in Weimar Germany with individual visionaries realising the potential of rockets whose thrust could be controlled, for space exploration. The Moon and Mars were the targets of these early visionaries. However, both in Russia and in Germany it was the military potential that led to practical rockets. The USA had a faltering start in the twenties and was rather late entering the race because the military potential of rockets was initially discounted. By the end of WWII Germany had shown the destructive capabilities of rockets and nobody could ignore the new technology.

3.50 – 4.15 Tea Break

4.15 – 5.15 The second lecture, **The Race to the Moon.** By the 1950s scientists and the general public realised that rockets were important for space science and space exploration. So it happened that at the height of the Cold War, a missile race between the Soviet Union and the USA transformed into a race to the Moon. Why were the Soviets so far ahead at the beginning? What went wrong? How and when did the Americans pull ahead and ultimately win? 50 years later, where are we now?

**Organiser:** Adrian Twiner 01892 459352 [adriantwiner@gmail.com](mailto:adriantwiner@gmail.com)

**N.B. This seminar is open to U3A members in West Kent**

To reserve a place please copy and complete the slip below and send it with your cheque and SAE to: **Adrian Twiner, 16, Bishops Court, Bishops Down Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8XL**  
Please remember to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your ticket, which will be sent out from late June.

Please retain for information.



I/We wish to attend the Tunbridge Wells U3A Science Seminar on **Space Exploration: Rockets and the Moon** and enclose a cheque for £6 per person, made payable to **TW U3A.**

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

Telephone No: ..... Email address: .....

I enclose a cheque for £..... (£6 per person)