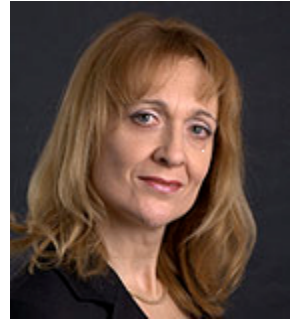


FANTASTIC PLASTIC **(Middle School Science Lecture)**

Professor Averil Macdonald held an audience of 200 Bloxhamists riveted for an hour during her presentation on the properties and future application of plastic.

A one time school teacher and now a Professor of Physics at Reading University, Professor Macdonald agreed to visit Bloxham as part of the Science beyond the Classroom initiative introduced by the science department at the school.



Pupils from years 9, 10 and 11 were soon introduced both to the concept of polymers and ‘How to make your fortune’, two themes that ran throughout the lecture as the speaker appealed to the scientific and entrepreneurial spark within us.

Following a quick, but effective review of the properties of polymers, Prof. Macdonald used a series of demonstrations and slides to convey some of their common uses and some of the basic science behind designing your own plastic.

The real impact came in the latter stages of the lecture as the audience was introduced to a world based on some clever applications of polymers. These included roll-up TVs, smart labels, synthetic body parts, Hydrogen fuel cells and conducting plastics that could eventually pave the way for the all plastic computer.

There was plenty of excitement, but perhaps tinged with a little concern as pupils grappled with the changes that this versatile material could have on the society of the future.

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