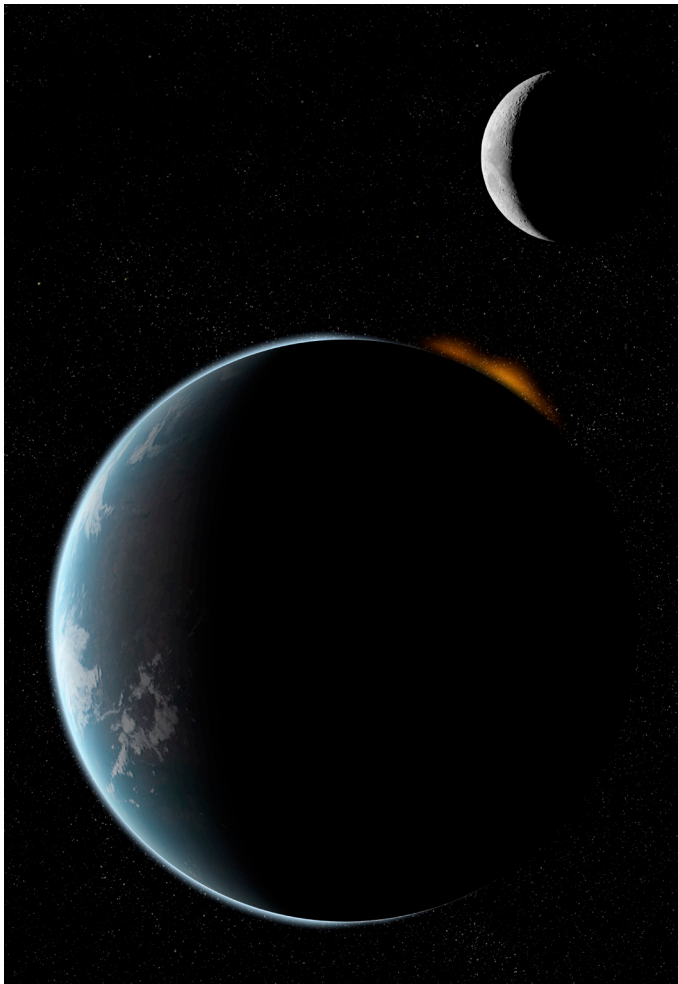




57th Annual Bennett Lecture

The Sixth Element

Monday 7 March 2016, 6.00pm



Andy Saunders

Emeritus Professor
Department of Geology
University of Leicester

Carbon is fundamental to life on Earth. Not only is it an integral part of all known organisms, but it also exerts a powerful influence on the composition and thermal regulation of the atmosphere and oceans. The geological past is littered with examples where major and rapid changes of the carbon cycle are associated with mass extinctions and global oceanic anoxic events. This talk will look at the characteristics of these changes and explore a possible cause: venting of carbon from the deep Earth via catastrophic flood-basalt volcanism. It will also consider the question: does our current profligate use of hydrocarbons pose the same threat to the global environment that flood basalts did in the past?

VENUE

**Lecture Theatre 1, Bennett Building
University of Leicester**

Teas and coffees available from 5.30pm
in the Bennett Foyer

This free lecture is open to students, staff, graduates and members of the public

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