



What is smell?

**A lecture by Dr Luca Turin, Research Professor
Quantum Biology
University of Buckingham**

Wednesday 21st January 2026, 6.00pm – 7.00pm

(Tea and coffee served from 5.45pm)

Lillingstone Trust Community Laboratory

Discovery Centre, Royal Latin School, Buckingham, MK18 1AX

Smell is our least understood sense – an ancient chemical language spoken directly to the brain. In this lecture, I will explore how molecules become sensations, how odour is written into molecular structure, and how the nose may act not just as a lock-and-key detector but as a tiny spectroscope, sensing the vibrations of the molecules around us. From the mysteries of olfaction to the artistry of perfume, I will journey from quantum physics to biology, and ultimately to art.


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