

1) Sour grapes: climate change and UK wine production

A new book from Imperial's Emeritus Professor Richard Selley suggests that climate change might make parts of southern England, which currently [currantly?] have vineyards, too hot for wine production.

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=readrelease&releaseid=529491>

2) Message of the spheres

Turns out that magnetars not only emit higher energy x-rays than previously thought, but also emit these as different pulses – dubbed “Morse Code” in this press release

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=readrelease&releaseid=529475>

[http://www.sron.nl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1833&Itemid=588](http://www.sron.nl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1833&Itemid=588)

3) Bleeding planes

Material science one – half think I might have sent out one like this before, but we've not published it, so any takers welcome. By including resin in the hollow glass fibres inside a plane's structure, any small cracks or holes which form in the aircraft will be mended in flight by the resin “bleeding” out of the fibres, and hardening. By including a dye, this will also enable ground inspections to easily pinpoint damage to be followed up.

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=readrelease&releaseid=529391>

4) Space cadets

ESA does astronaut recruitment. Probably relevant for some students.

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=readrelease&releaseid=529403>

5) Food miles

Turns out restaurants which source their ingredients locally reduce the transport CO2 budget per dish about a hundredfold

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=readrelease&releaseid=529415>

6) Hail to the king

A study into a “megacryometeor” – a whacking 10kg hailstone which fell through a factory roof in Spain last year– reveals it was definitely formed by atmospheric processes.

It is suspected they arise in the troposphere, and are associated with upsets in the tropopause – leads the scientists to suggest there may be a link with climate change.

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=readrelease&releaseid=529442>

7) Jumping Jesophat: it's a kangaroo plague!

It may be Australia's iconic animal, but there are so many on the outskirts of Canberra that the grasslands there, a haven for endangered species like the golden sun moth and grassland earless dragon, are under threat. A cull, using lethal injections (link to recent US news) is the solution the government's pursuing.

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=readrelease&releaseid=529456>

8) Road works on memory lane

Turns out false memories – confabulation – is associated with damage to the inferior medial frontal lobe. A handy excuse for politicians?

[http://www.cortexjournal.net/article/S0010-9452\(07\)00107-4/abstract](http://www.cortexjournal.net/article/S0010-9452(07)00107-4/abstract)

<http://www.alphagalileo.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=readrelease&releaseid=529423>

9) Laser light's spectrum fills out

A hybrid plastic laser is full of promise. Driven by a high power LED (rather than a far more expensive laser diode), it pumps a plastic lasing medium, the properties of which potentially allow precise control of the emitted light's wavelength, across a broad swathe of the visible spectrum.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v453/n7194/full/453459a.html>

<http://scitation.aip.org/getabs/servlet/GetabsServlet?prog=normal&id=APPLAB000092000016163306000001&idtype=cvips&qifs=yes>