

# Scraping sheep, mad cows, and zombie deer: prion diseases in the 21st century



**A lecture by Professor Patrick Lewis from  
The Royal Veterinary College**

**Wednesday 4th December 2024, 6.00pm - 7.00pm**

**(Tea and coffee served from 5.45pm)**

**Lillingstone Trust Community Laboratory**

**Discovery Centre, Royal Latin School, Buckingham**

The prion diseases, a unique group of brain disorders caused by the spread of sticky lumps of protein, were first brought into the public eye by the Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, also known as “mad cow disease”) epidemic in the 1980s. During the BSE epidemic tens of thousands of cows in the UK developed a fatal brain disorder, which was subsequently transmitted to humans in the form of variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease. But prion diseases have been around for many centuries, with sheep, cows, deer, mink and camels all affected. In this lecture, I will talk about the fascinating science behind what causes prion diseases, and provide an overview of where our understanding of these disorders stands in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



**Entry to these talks is free to all members of the local community. For further details, or to book a place, please email Lucy Beckett at [lbeckett@royallatin.org](mailto:lbeckett@royallatin.org)**