

# ***Farnham Geological Society***

*(Founded 1970)*

## **Lecture Meeting Friday 14 December 2018**

**Christopher Jackson, Imperial College**

In June 2017, 15 scientists and BBC film crew travelled to Nyiragongo, one of the largest and most active volcanoes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and home to the largest permanent lava lake on Earth. Posing a permanent threat to the city of Goma, a settlement with >1,000,000 people, Nyiragongo last erupted in 2002, and has been intermittently active ever since. In this talk we will describe the overall geological setting of this lethal yet mysterious volcano, which is situated within the East Africa Rift, the giant geological fracture responsible for the splitting apart of Africa. We will show footage and photography taken from the volcano summit and deep within the crater, next to the 700 m wide, 600 m deep lava lake, showcasing the volcanoes structure, and the unusual chemistry and physical properties of its lava. Transmitted on BBC2 in October 2017, Expedition Volcano discussed much, much more about the geology and study of this fascinating yet devastating natural wonder, the threat it poses to the nearby populous, and the great wealth and conflict it has brought to this turbulent region.