



BLCS 2026

The British Liquid Crystal Society

The 2026 BLCS Annual Meeting

DAY 1: TUESDAY 14 APRIL @ THE PHYSICS LECTURE THEATRE (PLT)

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| 9:30-10:00 | Welcome coffee |
| 10:00-11:00 | Plenary: Nematic, Smectic and Cholesteric Liquid Crystal Droplets - Exotic Defects, Lunes and Focal Conic Domains for New-Age Applications. Apala Majumdar FRSE, FIMA, University of Manchester, UK |
| 11:00-11:40 | coffee break |
| 11:40-12:00 | Self-Assembly and Charge Transport of a Low-Symmetry Discotic Dwaipayan Chakrabarti, University of Birmingham, UK |
| 12:00-12:20 | The Homogenised Energies for Suspensions of Colloidal Nanoparticles in Nematic/Cholesteric Liquid Crystals Fatimah Almutari, University of Strathclyde, UK |
| 12:20-12:40 | Subcritical Flow Transitions in Active Nematics Alexander Houston, University of Glasgow, UK |
| 12:40-12:50 | Nigel Balmforth, Taylor and Francis |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch, Radcliffe |
| 14:00-14:20 | Structuring Liquid Crystals under Confinement Conditions by Neutron Scattering Oleksandr Tomchuk, ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, UKRI, UK |
| 14:20-14:40 | Measurements of the Air/LC Interface Tilt Angle in Unusual Nematic Liquid Crystal Systems Abigail Bond, University of Leeds, UK |
| 14:40-15:00 | Thermal resolution limit for thermochromic liquid crystals sensors for sensing ultrasound Martha Turvey, University of Warwick, UK |
| 15:00-15:40 | coffee break |
| 15:40-16:20 | poster flash talks |
| 16:20-18:00 | Poster Presentations and welcome reception Science Concourse |



DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL @THE PHYSICS LECTURE THEATRE (PLT)

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| 10:00-11:00 | Plenary: Exploring Colloidal Liquid Crystals Through Filamentous Phage Model Systems Eric Grelet, Centre de Recherche Paul-Pascal, CNRS & University of Bordeaux, France |
| 11:00-11:40 | coffee break |
| 11:40-12:00 | Full vectorial-field sensing based on inkjet-printed LC droplets Jinge Guo, University of Oxford, UK |
| 12:00-12:20 | Blue Phases on PCB: Unlocking fast phase modulation Oana Niculescu, University of Cambridge, UK |
| 12:20-12:40 | Electrically Switchable vari-focal Continuous Phase Liquid Crystal Fresnel Zone Plate Zhiyu Xu, University of Oxford, UK |
| 12:40-13:00 | Adaptive Coherence Control for Holographic Measurement Systems using a Liquid Crystal Coherence Modulator Tianxin Wang, University of Oxford, UK |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch, Radcliffe |
| 14:00-15:20 | Prize giving and Young Scientist lecture |
| 15:20-16:00 | coffee break |
| 16:00-16:20 | Design Principles of Fluid Molecular Ferroelectrics Calum J. Gibb, University of Leeds, UK |
| 16:20-16:40 | Modulated Anti-Ferroelectric Smectic Phases with Orthogonal and Tilted Structures Jordan Hobbs, University of Leeds, UK |
| 16:40-17:00 | Computational approach for rapid screening for ferroelectric order in nematogens Mark Wilson, Durham University, UK |
| 17:00-17:20 | Dipoles, boundary conditions, and the ferroelectric nematic phase Saud Al-Qabandi, University of Manchester, UK |
| 17:20-18:00 | AGM |
| 19:00-21:30 | Conference 40th dinner and Hilsum medal talk |



DAY 3: THURSDAY 16 APRIL @ THE PHYSICS LECTURE THEATRE (PLT)

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| 10:00-10:40 | <p>Invited Speaker: Frustrated Smectic Liquid Crystal Elastomers as Multifunctional Mechanical Metamaterials</p> <p>Stuart Berrow, University of Leeds, UK</p> |
| 10:40-11:00 | <p>Mechanically reconfigurable auxetic metamaterials based on shape memory effect</p> <p>Zhenming Wang, University of Leeds, UK</p> |
| 11:00-11:40 | coffee break |
| 11:40-12:00 | <p>Diverse helical structures made of achiral mesogenic dimers</p> <p>Abigail Pearson, University of Aberdeen, UK</p> |
| 12:00-12:20 | <p>Synthesis and characterisation of liquid crystals bearing a sustainable novel uracil derived headgroup</p> <p>William Ogle, University of Leeds, UK</p> |
| 12:20-12:40 | <p>Structure-Property Relationships of Polar Mesogens Containing Sulfur</p> <p>Ewan Cruickshank, Robert Gordon University, UK</p> |
| 12:40-13:00 | student prizes and closing remarks |
| 13:00-13:20 | Lunch, packed |
| 13:20-14:00 | BLCS committee meeting |



LIST OF POSTERS: TUESDAY 14 APRIL (16:20 - 18:00)

| Poster No. | Presenter | Organisation | Title |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| P1 | Cameron Smith | University of Warwick | Chevron Instabilities in Active Smectic Liquid Crystals |
| P2 | Sarangi Krishna | Sheffield Hallam University | Towards the mesoscopic simulations of Liquid Crystal Elastomers |
| P3 | Thuriya Al Hinai | University of Strathclyde | Stability of Nematic Equilibria in Isosceles Triangular Domains |
| P4 | Sam Bainbridge | University of Manchester | Nematic Liquid Crystal Configurations in Triangular Confinement |
| P5 | Harry J. Godden | University of Leeds | Control of a Dual-Frequency Liquid Crystal Variable Attenuator for the Power Stabilisation of a Terahertz Quantum-Cascade Laser |
| P6 | Aleksandra Symanovic | Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia | From Bp _{iii} To Helix Inversion: Mesomorphic Behaviour And Chirality Transfer In Chiral Mesogenic Dimers |
| P7 | Zhenming Wang | University of Leeds | Multidimensional Multilevel Information Storage and Encryption in Auxetic Liquid Crystal Elastomers |
| P8 | Shona Ramsay | University of Aberdeen | Synthesis and Characterisation of Fluorinated Ferroelectric Nematogens |
| P9 | Martha Turvey | University of Warwick | Acoustic control of soft matter-based composites |

| Key | Topic |
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| | theory and simulation |
| | elastomers |
| | applications |
| | experiment |
| | ferroelectrics |
| | synthesis |

