

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from our friends at the Science Museum, part of the Science Museum Group.

REACH FOR THE STARS!

CECILIA Payne was a remarkable scientist whose work transformed our understanding of our nearest star, the sun.

In the 1920s, she discovered that the sun was mostly made up of hydrogen and helium. But not everyone believed her.

A leading astronomer of the day, Henry Russell, said Payne's results were "clearly impossible", though he later admitted she was right. Payne was not awarded a degree at Cambridge University or a professorship at Harvard University, all because she was a woman.

Still, she persevered, becoming a fully-fledged astronomer in 1927 and Harvard's first female head of department in the 1950s. She celebrated with a party in the Harvard observatory library.

You can find out more about Cecilia at the 'Sun: Living With Our Star' exhibition at the Science Museum. Under-16s go free.



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CHINA REACHES THE MOON

The first image of the rover on the far side of the moon and, right, a close-up of the lunar surface

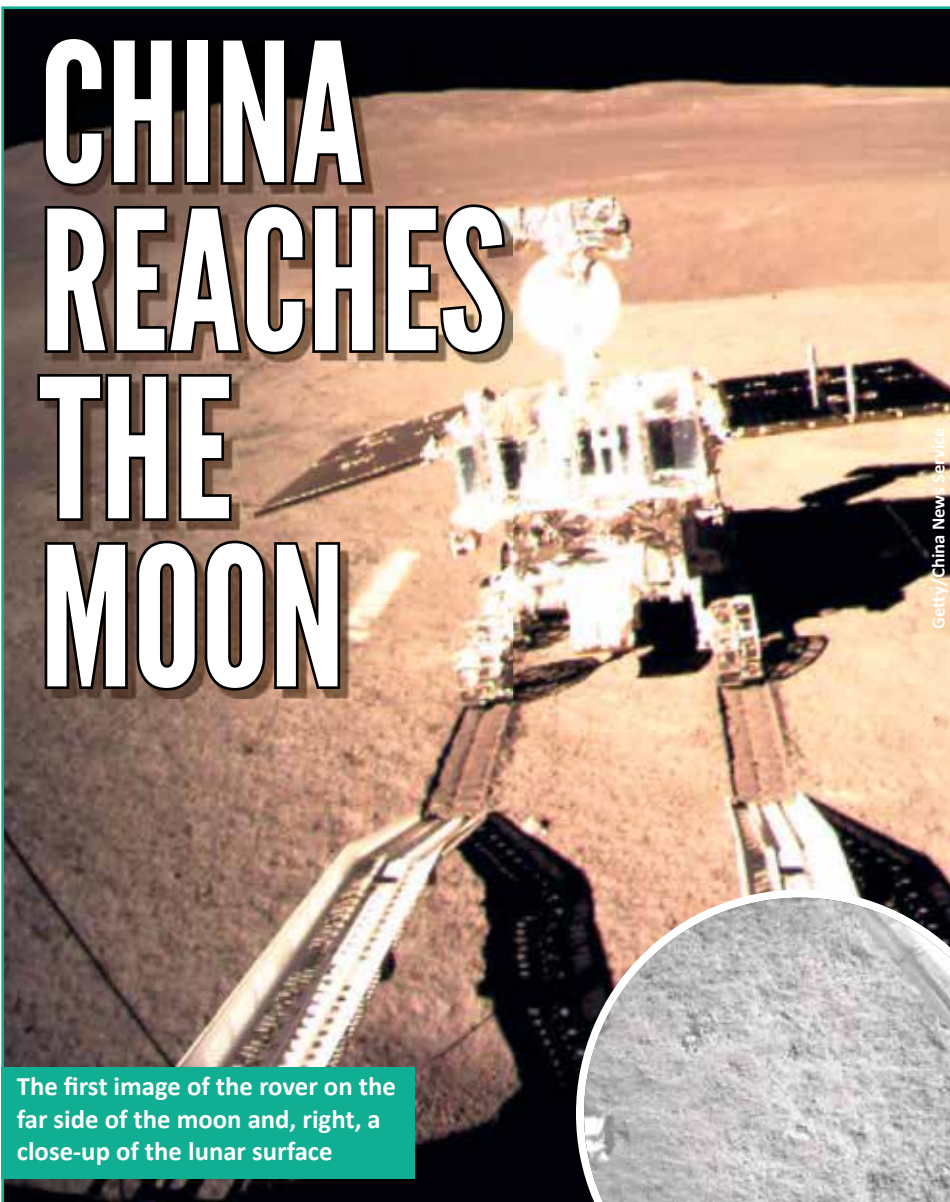
by Eddie de Oliveira

CHINA has successfully landed the first ever robotic spacecraft on the far side of the moon.

The Chang'e-4 probe, which lifted off in early December, touched down on the lunar surface on 3 January.

Many missions have explored the side of the moon that faces us, but this is the first time humans have sent a probe to the side we cannot see. This half of the moon is often called the 'dark side', but this isn't accurate. The moon spins on its axis at exactly the same rate as it orbits the Earth, so one side remains permanently out of our view. It isn't dark, though, as it still receives light from the sun.

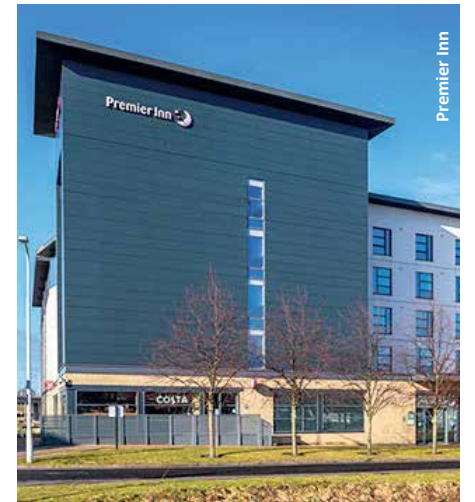
Chang'e-4 will study geology on the far side of the moon and carry out biology experiments. It is hoped this research will show how the moon was formed and what went on at the beginning of our solar system.



Getty China News Service

Getty China News Service

HOTEL POWERED BY A BATTERY



Premier Inn

A PREMIER Inn hotel in Edinburgh has become the first in the UK to be battery-powered.

The Edinburgh Park hotel has fitted a five-tonne battery that will provide power for 200 bedrooms. It will take a two-hour charge to power the hotel for up to three hours.

The battery will charge off the National Grid, the UK's electricity network, when power isn't in high demand.

Premier Inn claims that the lithium ion battery will save the hotel £20,000 in energy costs.

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE in the UK who suffer from severe asthma will soon be able to use a new treatment.

An injection, which is applied every four to eight weeks, has been approved for use on the NHS. It will help patients who cannot control their asthma with inhalers.

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INNOVATORS



Invention: Snowmobile

Year: 1935

Inventor: Joseph-Armand Bombardier

This Canadian inventor suffered a dreadful tragedy when his two-year-old son died in 1934. Due to wintry weather, he and his wife couldn't get their child to hospital in time to save his life. This motivated Bombardier to speed up work he had already started on a lightweight vehicle that could move easily in the snow, to improve access for people in small rural towns. A year later, the first snowmobile appeared. It was steered by skis and ran on caterpillar tracks, similar to a tank. In 1937, his snowmobile first went on sale.

SNOWMAN IN SPACE!

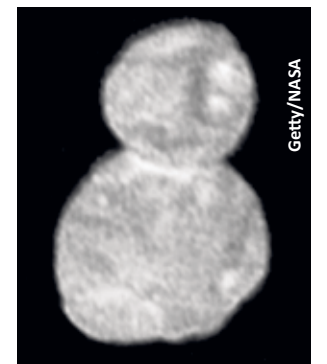
IT may have been chilly lately, but this isn't a picture of a snowman.

It's actually a lump of rock some 6.5 billion km (4 billion miles) away on the edge of our solar system.

Known as Ultima Thule, it was photographed by NASA's New Horizons craft on New Year's Day as it performed the most distant space flyby in history.

This 'snowman' is hugely important for scientific research, because it shows the most distant object ever visited by a spacecraft.

New Horizons launched in January 2006 and in 2015 it performed a flyby of Pluto, taking multiple pictures of the dwarf planet's surface. Professor Hal Weaver, who works on the mission, said the flyby was "another great step in the exploration of our solar system".



Getty/NASA