

Practical Science Workshop

Regular meeting in October 2023

In the natural world plants make glucose units through photosynthesis which are then linked together to form cellulose which make up the bulk of natural fibre in plants and trees alternatively storage compounds can be made up usually in the form of starches that are found in cereals ,potatoes and flour. Even our genetic material is a polymer made up of amino acid in our DNA. In contrast our society relies on synthetic polymers to make up the fabric of our society. These building blocks are usually derived from oil products that make our modern plastics.



We had great fun attempting to make our own version of nylon by floating sebacoyl chloride in hexane on a layer aqueous diaminohexane, see picture.

Star chemist Fiona Jackman drew out a seemingly endless thread of nylon from the beaker. We look forward to seeing a croched scarf made out of nylon this Christmas.