

Your Inner Fish – A journey into the 3.5 billion year history of the human body
by Neil Shubin. Allen Lane 2008.

This is yet another wonderful riposte to the flat earthers and creationists whose pseudo-science about the origins of life so pollutes rational debate in the 21st century.

Neil Shubin, Chair of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Chicago, has written a superbly argued, eminently readable yet weighty account of the studies he has done over many years which have revealed, inter alia, the inter-connection between the anatomy of fossil fish from the Devonian period, 390-360 million years ago, and our own.

Divided into eleven chapters with an epilogue, and with copious chapter notes and suggestions for further reading, Shubin presents evidence that to all but the irredeemably closed minded demonstrates the glories of the evolutionary process. In addition to bone structure he also considers the development of the key senses, and other physiological details that we share with simpler life forms, not least hiccups and hernias.

Anyone who wishes to have arguments to defeat creationist and intelligent design delusionists could not ask for a better book or a worthier champion.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh