Noisy Bodies - Why does my body make rude noises?

Fact
- Your body makes lots of natural gas that it needs to get rid of.
- Sometimes that gas comes back up your oesophagus in what we call a burp and sometimes it passes through your intestines to come out your rectum as a “blow off”.
- Burps come from a small sac of muscles in your stomach.
- Bacteria living in your large intestine eat any undigested food. As the bacteria eat they produce gases that escape through your anus as a “blow off”.
- Passing wind and burping is natural and healthy but it’s a good idea to say excuse me or pardon if you do it when other people are around.

Do you know
- In some cultures like Ancient Rome and some Middle Eastern countries burping is considered a complement to the cook.
- You probably burp about 15 times a day which means you would burp 38,325 times a year.
- Parents help babies burp because they swallow a lot of air when they drink from a bottle and that air can make them very uncomfortable.
- Everyone “passes wind”.

Experiments you can do
Make a balloon burp.
(This can be messy so do it over the kitchen bench)
What you need:
Some balloons or a re-sealable plastic bag
¼ cup of vinegar
2 teaspoons of baking soda
What you do:
Pour the vinegar and baking soda through a funnel into the balloon or bag then clamp the balloon or bag shut. Let the vinegar react with the baking soda then open the mouth of the balloon or bag a little to let the gas escape. What does it sound like?

Other Investigations
Make a record of all the different foods that you eat each day and see if you notice more gas escaping after certain foods.

Jokes/Rhymes
Pardon me for being rude,
It was not me, it was my food.
It just popped up to say hello,
And now it’s gone back down below.