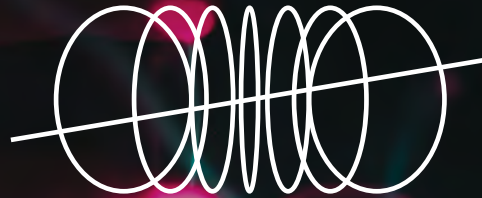


Book tickets now at: [www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/whats-on](http://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/whats-on)



SCAN FOR TICKETS

14th – 27th Sept 2025



# Aberdeen Science Festival

Powered by **TECHFEST**

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Hot Topics | STEM Nights | Engaging Experiences | Family Fest | Fringe Events



# WELCOME TO THE 2025 ABERDEEN SCIENCE FESTIVAL

The energy industry depends on advances in science, technology, engineering and maths. Investing in science is key for us to be able to provide the world with the energy it needs in a sustainable way.

Aberdeen Science Festival powered by TechFest offers something for everyone in STEM – it promotes young children's natural curiosity as well as offers opportunities for older children and adults to feel passionate about the subjects that will shape our future.

We are proud to play our part in inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers with TechFest to improve the world in which we live.

We call them our Heroes of Tomorrow.

---

**Camilla Salthe,**  
*Senior Vice President Upstream at Equinor UK*



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# CONTENTS

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

We are delighted to bring you Aberdeen Science Festival, a celebration of STEM and cutting edge research happening here in Aberdeen. To help navigate the festival, we have split the events into five categories;

## ■ HOT TOPICS

Cutting edge research and topical subjects discussed in an accessible way for the public to enjoy. Come along and find out more about the world around you.

## ■ STEM NIGHTS

After dark, these evening events are where the serious scientific ideas are discussed in a different way... this year includes secrets of magic, biological bingo and the ability to hack your memory.

## ■ ENGAGING EXPERIENCES

Our hands-on section of the programme focuses on those practical experiences. Delve into this part of the programme and embrace your inner scientist.

## ■ FAMILY FEST

These events have been designed with the whole family in mind, from our youngest explorers to our wise elders. Come along and be inspired by passionate professionals from across the world of science.

## ■ FRINGE EVENTS

A taste of science from partner organisations to warm up your appetite in the lead up to the festival

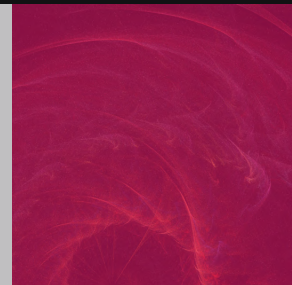
**Tickets will be on sale until a few hours before the event. After that, remaining tickets can be purchased with cash at the door.**



## Disclaimer

All details of events in this programme are correct at time of going to print. TechFest reserves the right to alter or cancel programme information without prior notice. Any changes will be posted on the TechFest website. The views of the presenters are their own, and not necessarily endorsed by TechFest, their sponsors or supporters.

Aberdeen Science Festival is coordinated by TechFest, Butchart Centre, University of Aberdeen, University Road, Aberdeen, AB24 3UT.  
Email: [aberdeensciencefestival@techfest.org.uk](mailto:aberdeensciencefestival@techfest.org.uk)  
website: [techfest.org.uk](http://techfest.org.uk) Scottish charity number: SCO10349





### FAMILY

These events are designed with the whole family in mind



These events are designed for our young innovators with a specific age range in mind, please note children must be accompanied by an adult.



These events will have content suitable for 12 + , but please note under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.



These events are strictly for over 18s due to event content or licensing laws.

## ACCESSIBILITY INFO

Our venues are situated across Aberdeen City. We are delighted to be hosted by the University of Aberdeen for several of our festival events.

An access guide with details of facilities and what to expect at the festival can be found on the festival website;

<https://www.techfest.org.uk/festival/aberdeen-science-festival>

At TechFest we strive for inclusivity; if there is anything we can do to help support you or your family's needs please get in touch with us on [aberdeensciencefestival@techfest.org.uk](mailto:aberdeensciencefestival@techfest.org.uk)

Parking is permitted in University car parks after 5pm, and at weekends when visiting the festival.



Purchase tickets online at Aberdeen Performing Arts or in person at the Aberdeen Performing Arts Box Offices, which can be found at HMT or the Music Hall. Alternatively please call the box office on 01224 641122. Opening hours are 10am – 6pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

Prices are as specified in this programme and include a £1 booking fee.

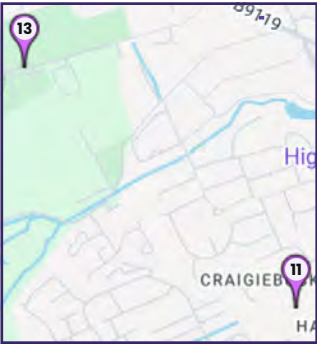
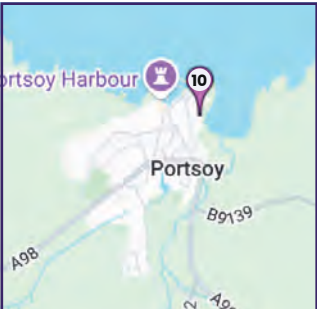
Where applicable, a concession price is stated for under 16s, pensioners, unemployed, disabled attendees and students.

Please note booking for the Discovery Day can be found on a separate website, as detailed in the programme entry.

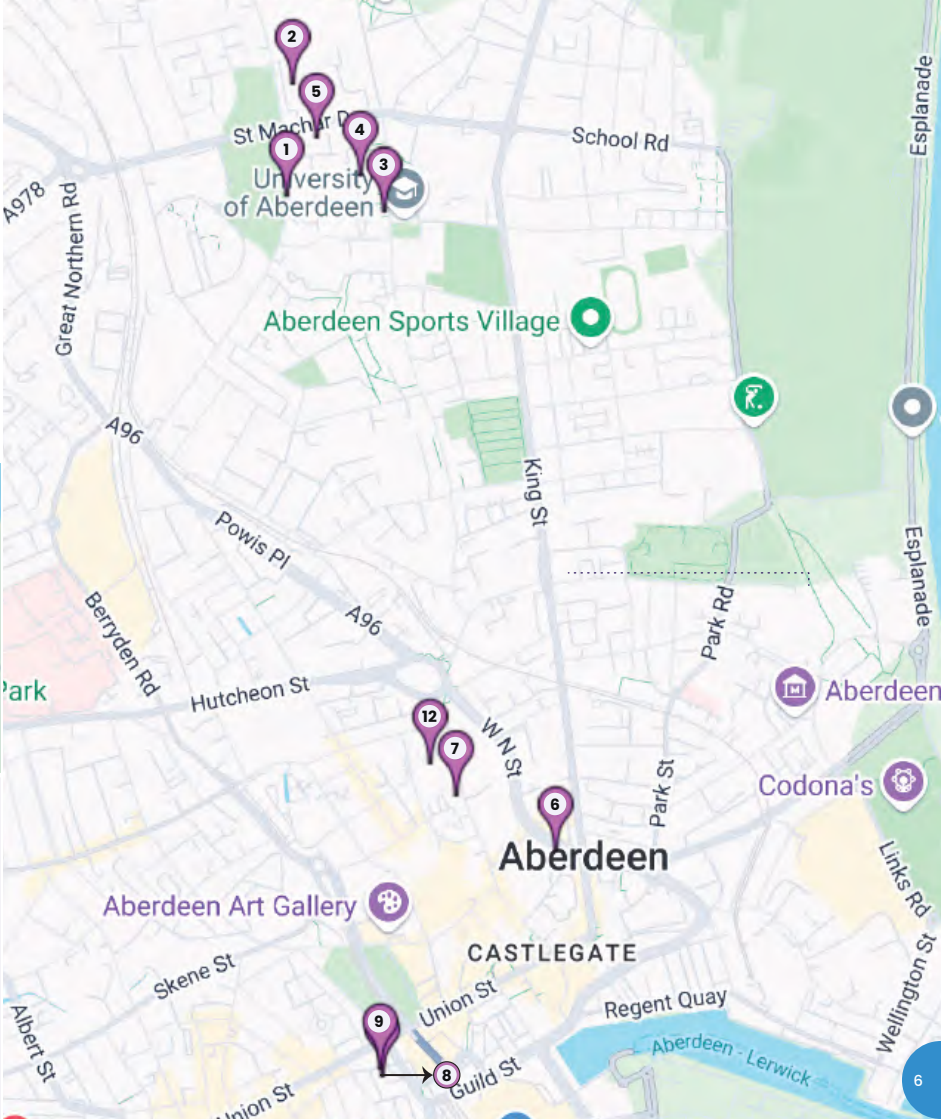
## TICKET BOOKING

# VENUES & MAPS

- 1** The Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen  
Bedford Rd, Aberdeen AB24 3AA
- 2** Zoology Building, University of Aberdeen  
Zoology Building, Tillydrone Ave, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ
- 3** Elphinstone Hall, University of Aberdeen  
21 High St, Aberdeen AB24 3EE
- 4** Fraser Noble, University of Aberdeen  
Elphinstone Rd, Aberdeen AB24 3UE
- 5** Science Teaching Hub, University of Aberdeen  
Bedford Rd, Aberdeen AB24 3AA
- 6** Lemon Tree  
5 West North St, Aberdeen AB24 5AT
- 7** The Blue Lamp  
121 Gallowgate, Aberdeen AB25 1BU
- 8** OGV Taproom  
10 Bridge Pl, Aberdeen AB11 6HZ
- 9** OGV Podium  
7 Windmill Brae, Aberdeen AB11 6HU
- 10** Portsoy Bothy Museum  
Links Rd, Portsoy, Banff AB45 2SS
- 11** The James Hutton Institute  
Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen AB15 8QH
- 12** NESCol Aberdeen  
Gallowgate, Aberdeen AB25 1BN
- 13** Hazlehead Park  
Hazlehead Ave, Aberdeen AB15 8BE



For local bus information see First Bus:  
<https://www.firstbus.co.uk/aberdeen/plan-journey/timetables>





## JOINT PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



**Simon Roddy**

Senior Vice President Upstream  
Shell U.K. Limited



**Doris Reiter**

Senior Vice President  
bp North Sea

bp and Shell are proud, as Joint Principal Sponsors, to welcome you to TechFest, an annual celebration of the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

We are delighted to support the public programme of fascinating events, which allow audiences to explore STEM. The varied programme encourages visitors to get involved in activities throughout the North-east of Scotland through the exciting variety of shows, presentations and workshops on offer.

By supporting TechFest we aim to provide both enjoyment for the public and inspiration for the next generation of scientists and engineers. We look forward to another successful festival.

# FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

## SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

### Discovery Day

Venue: Elphinstone Hall, Kings College Campus, UOA  
Price: Free

11AM-4PM

### From Fuel to Fire: How to Build a Rocket

Venue: Fraser Noble Building, UOA | Price: £3 | 5+

1PM-3PM

## WEDNESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

### Are Entrepreneurs Born or Made?

Venue: ONE Tech Hub | Price: £8 | 16+

6PM-8PM

## FRIDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

### Beyond the Airlock: Engineering Habitats in the Sea & Space

Venue: North East Scotland College, Aberdeen City Campus  
(entrance from Loch Street) | Price: £6/ £4 | 12+

6:30PM

## SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

### Look Up with Simon Watt

Venue: Fraser Noble Building, UOA | Price: £3

10:30AM

### Across the Highland Boundary – Scotland's great fault line

Venue: Cowie Coastline, Stonehaven | 14+

1PM – 4PM

### Murky Medical Mysteries of Aberdeen – A walking tour

Venue: The Marischal College | Price: £6/£4 | 12+

3PM – 5PM

### Sci Fi Snobbery – Monsters and Mayhem

Venue: OGV Podium | Price: £6/£4 | 18+

6:30-8PM

### Dr T's "The Aberdeen Memory Show"

Venue: Lemon Tree | Price: £8/£10 | 12+

7PM

## SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

### Portsoy shoreline – a geo-dive into the Grampian orogeny

Venue: Portsoy Bothy Museum | Price: Free

11AM – 1PM  
2.30PM – 4.30PM

### Smart Home Design Workshop

Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, UOA | Price: £6/£4 | 10+

1PM – 2:30PM,  
3PM – 4:30PM

## MONDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

### Murder at the Boutique Hotel

Venue: The James Hutton Institute | Price: £6/£ | 12+

1PM

### An evening under the stars at the NESCol Planetarium

Venue: NESCol Aberdeen Campus | Price: £6/£4

5PM, 5.30PM, 6PM, 6.30PM, 7PM, 7.30PM, 8PM, 8.30PM

### From Crime Scene to Court

Venue: The James Hutton Institute | Price: £6/£4 | 18+

7PM

### The Granite Safari; A celebration of Aberdeen's wildlife

Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, UOA | Price: Free | 12+

7PM

## TUESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

### SABR: The Cutting Edge in Radiation Cancer Treatment

Venue: Fraser Noble Building, UOA | Price: £6/£4 | 16+

6:30PM

### Code Red: Stopping the Bleed

Venue: Fraser Noble Building, UOA | Price: £6/£4 | 18+

7:30PM



SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK TICKETS



## WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

### Scotland Rocks!

Venue: Science Teaching Hub, UOA | Price: Free

10AM-12PM

### Using Virtual Reality to support a Just Transition

Venue: The James Hutton Institute | Price: £6/£4 | 12+

6PM – 8PM

### Café Controversial – What does it take to make the world a better place?

Venue: Lemon Tree | Price: £6/£4 | 18+

7PM

## Thursday 25th SEPTEMBER

### Seals, Drones, and Social Media: A Newburgh Beach Study

Venue: Zoology Building, UOA | Price: Free | 12+

1PM

### Be Smarter Than Your Phone: Learn how you can escape from your devices and social media, and why you should

Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, UOA | Price: £6/£4 | 12+

6PM

### Genetics Bingo

Venue: OGV Taproom | Price: £6/£4 | 18+

7PM

### Science in the City

Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, UOA | Price: £6/£4 | 12+

7PM

## SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

### Build, Dam, Float

Venue: Hazlehead Woods | Price: £4

10AM – 11:30AM

### Hot Science – the Menopause Explained

Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, UOA | Price: £6/£4 | 18+

2PM-4PM

### The Psychology of a Magician

Venue: The Blue Lamp, Aberdeen | Price: £6/£4 | 14+

7PM



# HOT TOPICS

12+

## THE GRANITE SAFARI; A CELEBRATION OF ABERDEEN'S WILDLIFE

Jack Elphinstone

*Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service*

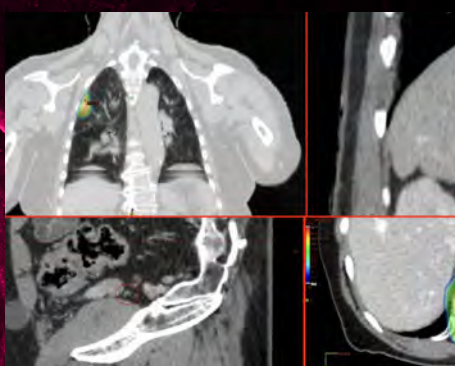


**Monday 22 September | 7pm**

**Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen**

**Price: Free**

Scotland is home to over 90,000 different species of animal. Locations such as the Cairngorms National Park attract massive gatherings of wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. With such amazing places available to us, it can be all too easy to ignore the creatures that can be found right on our doorstep. Countryside Ranger Jack Elphinstone highlights some of Aberdeen's wild spaces and the remarkable species that can be found right in the heart of our Granite City.



## SABR: THE CUTTING EDGE IN RADIATION CANCER TREATMENT

Dr John McLellan

*NHS Aberdeen*

Tuesday 23 September | 6.30pm | 16+ | Venue: Fraser Noble Building, University of Aberdeen | Price: £6/£4

Radiation has been used to treat cancer since the 1800s. However, modern technology has recently opened the door to a treatment technique known as "Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy" or SABR. We now use radiation beams the way a surgeon wields a scalpel, destroying small tumours with very large doses of radiation in organs like the lung and liver. Join us to hear how the growing use of SABR is changing the landscape for so many patients.

16+



## CODE RED: STOPPING THE BLEED

Dr Gael Morrow

*Robert Gordon University*

Tuesday 23 September | After 7.30pm | 18+ | Venue: Fraser Noble Building, University of Aberdeen | Price: £6/£4

A traumatic injury can happen to any one of us, at any time, and can result in massive blood loss that is uncontrollable. This talk will cover the biological mechanisms that cause uncontrolled bleeding and the latest advancements in clinical treatments for civilian and military patients.

18+

**RGU** ROBERT GORDON  
UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN



## SEALS, DRONES, AND SOCIAL MEDIA: A NEWBURGH BEACH STUDY

Claire Stainfield

*Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)*

Thursday 25 September | 1pm | 12+ | Venue: Zoology Building, University of Aberdeen | Price: Free

Social media and ecological data integration offer a novel approach to monitoring ecotourism impacts. This study analyses geotagged social media to examine nature tourism trends across the Ythan River area, including Newburgh Seal Beach and Forvie Nature Reserve. Using hashtag analysis, and GPS activity data, my study aims to examine visitor motivations, awareness, and human-seal interactions. In the hope to balance conservation with recreational access in protected coastal environments.

12+

12+

## **BE SMARTER THAN YOUR PHONE:** LEARN HOW YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM YOUR DEVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA, AND WHY YOU SHOULD

Dr John NA Brown  
*Robert Gordon University*

**Thursday 25 September | 6PM | 12+ | Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen | Price: £6/£4**

During his talk, John will help you understand how your own devices and social media are manipulating your feelings, thoughts and actions. He will also demonstrate what you can do to help you recognise, track, and escape the software and hardware that have been deliberately designed to profit from the way human brains work.



12+

## **SCIENCE IN THE CITY**

Dr Chris Croly  
*University of Aberdeen*

**Thursday 25 September | 7pm | 12+ | Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen | Price: £6/£4**

Join Dr Chris Croly to explore people and places associated with scientific advances throughout Aberdeen city centre. This talk will explore the people and places associated with these advances.





Dr Wendy Knoop  
*the Menopause Clinic*



Helen Goldie  
*the Menopause Pharmacist*



Dr Monika Gostic  
*Nutrition Consultant*



Evelyn Mair  
*Fit IQ Education*

18+

## HOT SCIENCE – THE MENOPAUSE EXPLAINED

Saturday 27 September | 2pm – 4pm | 18+ | Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen | Price: £6/£4

Join us for an informative and interactive event exploring the realities of perimenopause and menopause. A panel of expert speakers from the fields of medicine, nutrition, exercise, and pharmacy will share practical advice and holistic strategies to support your journey. After hearing from our experts, take part in small group workshops to ensure you leave feeling empowered with knowledge of the support across the region.

Whether you're experiencing menopause, preparing for it, or simply want to learn more, this session offers valuable insights and guidance to help you manage your health and wellbeing during this important stage of life.



# STEM NIGHTS

12+

## DR T's "THE ABERDEEN MEMORY SHOW"

Dr Tharaka – AKA Dr T

**Saturday 20 September | 7PM | Duration: 80 minutes | 12+**

**Venue: Lemon Tree | Price: £8/£10**

Did you know you can train your brain to remember almost anything? Join Dr T's "The Aberdeen Memory Show" to discover fun, interactive Memory techniques and cutting-edge brain science, all while learning fascinating facts about Aberdeen's landmarks and history. Perfect for anyone aged 12yr and up, this engaging session will leave you with unforgettable memories, Aberdeen trivia, and a sharper mind!" Presented by Dr Tharaka. Dr Tharaka, also known as Dr T, Psychiatrist, three-time TEDx speaker, Podcaster and trusted TV Mind Expert, known for his appearances on BBC Morning Live, ITV's Big Brother, and Channel 4's Can I Improve My Memory? With over 20 years of medical experience, Dr T brings a unique blend of clinical expertise and showmanship to the stage. Whether he's speaking at global conferences or hosting interactive memory shows, his signature style is packed with humour, heart, and science-backed strategies you'll never forget.





**OCEANEERING**

**NORTH EAST  
SCOTLAND  
COLLEGE**

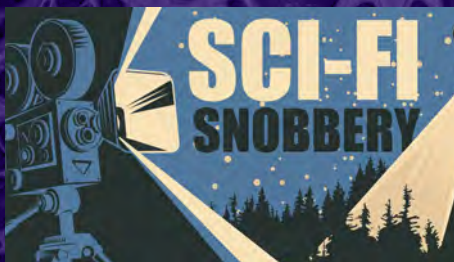
## BEYOND THE AIRLOCK: ENGINEERING HABITATS IN THE SEA & SPACE

Adele Luta  
*Oceaneering*

Friday 19th September | 6:30PM | 12+ | North East Scotland College, Aberdeen City Campus (entrance from Loch Street)  
Price: £6/ £4

Adele Luta is a scientist, innovator and TEDx speaker; with her previous career at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Johnson Space Flight Centre as a certified Mission Control Centre flight controller and astronaut instructor she has supported over 90 spacewalks. Now at Oceaneering International Inc, she is supporting exploration efforts in extreme environments such as outer space and under the sea. Adele is an aquanaut, seaplane pilot, and coral restoration volunteer scuba diver. In this talk, she will share some of the scientific and engineering challenges to living and exploring in extreme environments while interweaving stories from her career.

12+



**THE BELMONT  
CINEMA**

## SCI FI SNOBBERY – MONSTERS AND MAYHEM!

Simon Watt & Dr Jamie Gallagher  
*in collaboration with the Belmont Community Cinema*

Saturday 20 September | 6.30PM | 18+ | Venue: OGV Podium | Price: £6/£4

**What's the best science fiction film of all time?**

ITS ALIVE! Since Frankenstein's monster twitched to life on the silver screen nearly 100 years ago science fiction films have created monsters to scare, delight and thrill – but which has been the greatest? We need your help to decide. Last years festival hit returns with whole new show as cynical Simon Watt and convention-loving Jamie Gallagher return to air their long running Sci Fi arguments in public. Join us to dive below the ocean, hunt out alien life forms as they ask you to decide once and for all – the greatest Sci Fi monster to take to the screen.

Donations will be collected on the evening which will go toward supporting the campaign to reopen The Belmont Community Cinema.

18+



## FROM CRIME SCENE TO COURT

Prof Lorna Dawson and the SCANdI team  
*The James Hutton Institute*

Monday 22 September | 7.00PM | 18+ | Venue: The James Hutton Institute | Price: £6/£4

Using single cell sorting, Artificial Intelligence, 3D printing and whole genome sequencing, SCANdI have created a new approach to identify suspects from mixed samples when only trace amounts of biomaterial can be recovered from a crime scene. Join leading forensic scientist Prof Lorna Dawson and the SCANdI team for an interactive forensic investigation to determine the who, what, where and when as we explore the future of CSI.

18+

## 18+ CAFÉ CONTROVERSIAL – WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

Wednesday, 24 September | 7PM; bar will open from 6:30PM | 18+ | Venue: Lemon Tree | Price: £6/£4

Join researchers from the University of Aberdeen as they discuss controversial ideas that arise when conducting research in the modern world. Staff from schools of Divinity and Medicine will give an insight into their research topics, which will push boundaries, challenge assumptions and provoke discussion.



## 18+ GENETICS BINGO

Prof Jonathan Pettitt  
*Genetics Society and University of Aberdeen*

Thursday 25 September | 7PM | 18+ | Venue: OGV Taproom | Price: £6/£4

Explore your genetic inheritance at the Genetics Society's Genetics Bingo! Ever wondered why your ear wax is wet and smelly, why your wee sometimes smells of asparagus, or why Pythagoras was opposed to fava beans? Join Prof Jonathan Pettitt and explore the thrilling intersections of science and chance as you engage in this unique, interactive experience.



## 14+ THE PSYCHOLOGY OF A MAGICIAN

Dr Matt Pritchard  
*Science Magic Shows*

Saturday 27 September | 7PM | 14+ | Venue: The Blue Lamp, Aberdeen | Price: £6/£4

Magicians use their understanding of the human mind and senses to create their illusions. In this interactive and demonstration packed talk you'll learn some of the deep secrets behind the deceptions. You'll also discover how psychologists use magic in their research and how this knowledge is deployed practically. For example, child development, car safety, and shopping choices can all be better understood (and manipulated?) by magical influences.

Please note under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.





# ENGAGING EXPERIENCES

14+

## ACROSS THE HIGHLAND BOUNDARY SCOTLAND'S GREAT FAULT LINE

*University of Aberdeen. Part of the Scottish Geology Festival*

Saturday 20th September | 1pm – 4:30pm | 14+ | Venue: Cowie Coastline, Stonehaven

### MEETING POINT

[///sprint.wins.dunk](http://sprint.wins.dunk)

Stonehaven leisure centre and open air pool carpark.

Will depart from there at 13.00 – so participants should aim to arrive by 12.45.

The Highland Boundary Fault is one Scotland's great tectonic structures, separating different landscapes and very different geology. Join geologists from the University of Aberdeen on a walk along the coast at Stonehaven – getting hands-on the rocks and exploring the significance of this major fault zone. You'll see deposits of long-lost rivers, rocks brought up from the depths of the crust and signs of a vanished ocean – all access from the coastal path in magnificent scenery.



Please note this is a walk from Cowie, northern Stonehaven along the coast and back for around 5 km on uneven ground. Participants need to get themselves to/from the rendezvous and be appropriately equipped for hiking.

12+

## MURKY MEDICAL MYSTERIES OF ABERDEEN A WALKING TOUR

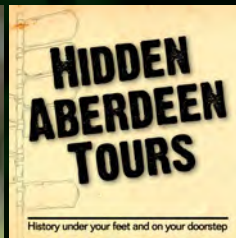
Dr Fiona-Jane Brown

*Hidden Aberdeen Tours*

Saturday 20 September | 3PM – 5PM | 12+ | Venue: The Marischal College | Price: £6/£4

Join historian and author Dr Fiona-Jane Brown on a walk exploring the murky world of Aberdeen's early medical professionals, including the city's first infirmary at Woolmanhill, the anatomists and their students who raided graves for fresh bodies, Dr Skene who demonstrated the "galvanic battery" on the corpse of a murderer 2 years after the novel Frankenstein was published, and the grim beginnings of Aberdeen's first maternity wards in the Guestrow.

NOTE: This is a walking tour. Not suitable for children under 12, dogs or those with limited mobility.





## PORTSOY SHORELINE – A GEO-DIVE INTO THE GRAMPIAN OROGENY

*Delivered by the Portsoy Community Enterprise & University of Aberdeen. Part of the Scottish Geology Festival.*

**Sunday 21 September | 11AM – 1PM and 2.30PM – 4.30PM | Portsoy Bothy Museum | Price: Free** (Booking required)

The coast at Portsoy is world-famous for its geology – a dramatic section of metamorphic rocks – squashed and cooked by the mountain building events that laid the foundations of the Scottish Highlands. Join us to explore the geology and history, including the celebrated “Portsoy Marble”. See rocks specimens at Portsoy Bothy Museum and in the dramatic outcrops on the shoreline. The guided excursion involves 2–3 km walking on surfaced paths.



## SMART HOME DESIGN WORKSHOP

Caroline Laurenson

*TL Tech*

**Sunday 21 September | 1PM – 2:30PM, 3PM – 4:30PM | 10+**

**Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen | Price: £6/£4**

Become an Internet of Things (IoT) engineer for the day and prototype your very own smart home out of craft supplies and recycled materials. You'll learn about smart homes and their benefits and the importance of user-centred design. By the end of the workshop, you'll have gained an appreciation of the different use cases, the importance of accessibility and how a smart home can help you and your family to live well.

10+



## MURDER AT THE BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Prof Lorna Dawson and the SCAnDi team

*The James Hutton Institute*

**Monday 22 September | 1PM | 12+ | Venue: The James Hutton Institute | Price: £6/£4**

There has been a murder at the Boutique Hotel. Explore the Lego® crime scene and use forensic science to catch the culprit.

Learn about different types of biological evidence commonly recovered from crime scenes from our experts. This workshop will guide you through the crime scene where you will use forensic science to gather evidence and build a matching DNA profile to our suspects, which one will match the culprit?

12+

## F AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS AT THE NESCOL PLANETARIUM

North East Scotland College

Monday 22 September | 5PM, 5.30PM, 6PM, 6.30PM, 7PM, 7.30PM, 8PM, 8.30PM |

Venue: North East Scotland College, Aberdeen City Campus (entrance from Loch Street). | Price: £6/£4

We Are Guardians is a family friendly immersive experience, examining climate change and the role of satellites in monitoring the impact human activities are having on earth and its ecosystems. The award winning show is the work of NSC Creative, part of the National Science Centre. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

NOTE: Content may contain flashing images. Show details below, please arrive 15 minutes before your allocated time.

### Planetarium show – We are Guardians

We Are Guardians looks at how our world, its peoples and ecosystems are intrinsically connected, and how with the help of satellite monitoring we can examine the links between human activities and climate change. 5PM, 6PM, 7PM

### Planetarium show – The Sun, Our Living Star

Discover the secrets of the Sun in this planetarium show and experience never-before-seen images of this star's violent surface in this immersive show. 5.30PM, 6.30PM, 7.30PM.



## SCOTLAND ROCKS!

Wednesday 24th September | 10AM-12PM | Venue: Science Teaching Hub, University of Aberdeen | Part of The Scottish Geology Festival | Price: Free

Get hands-on with Scotland's rich earth history. Dinosaur tracks, fossil fish, rocks from deep in the crust and those erupted from now extinct volcanoes. Virtually visit the outcrops using our stunning 3D imagery, see some of the university's inspirational and historic collections of maps, rocks, minerals and fossils – all in the university's state-of-the-art teaching labs.



## 12+ USING VIRTUAL REALITY TO SUPPORT A JUST TRANSITION

The James Hutton Institute

Wednesday 24 September | 6PM – 8PM | 12+ | Venue: The James Hutton Institute | Price: £6/£4

The International Land Use Study Centre at The James Hutton Institute proposes a STEM-focused evening event showcasing cutting-edge research in land use and environmental science. This event will take full advantage of the newly developed immersive suite and open science café, offering opportunities to for participants to participate in scientific experiments using virtual reality. The event will highlight how the Centre is supporting a Just Transition for the North East of Scotland through social and technological innovations, and their implications for sustainable land and soil management. Refreshments included.



## 16+ ARE ENTREPRENEURS BORN OR MADE?

Wednesday 17 September | 6PM-8PM | 16+ | Venue: ONE Tech Hub | Price: £8 / Free tickets for students on request

Challenge your entrepreneurial mindset in this dynamic, team-based workshop exploring whether entrepreneurs are born or made. Drawing from MIT's Disciplined Entrepreneur Framework, participants will tackle a customer pain point and develop their entrepreneurship skills. Join Women in Tech Aberdeen and Opportunity North East for an engaging session that puts theory into practice through a hands-on entrepreneurial activity.



# FAMILY FEST

## DISCOVERY DAY

PARTNERSHIP EVENT BETWEEN



UNIVERSITY OF  
ABERDEEN

&



Aberdeen  
Science  
Festival  
Powered by TechFest

Sunday 14th September | Elphinstone Hall, Kings College Campus | 11AM-4PM | free entry



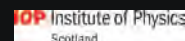
Research will be made real with hands-on activities, demonstrations and exploration of science, art and more at the Explorathon Extravaganza.

With family friendly activities for all ages, learn about how research can have an impact on your life! Learn about Psychology, diet, explore the Botanic Garden and take tours of the historic campus in beautiful Old Aberdeen, amongst many other fun activities. Some elements of the day featured below.

### FEARSOME BEASTS & ICE AGE ADVENTURES

As part of Scottish Archaeology Month we will have a focus on Archaeology. Dig into our activities and unleash Fearsome Beasts and Ice Age Adventures – meet stone age re-enactors, discover the University's collection and dig into the latest archaeology at Aberdeen.

### LIGHT UP YOUR WORLD!



TechFest in collaboration with University of Aberdeen and Physics Department kindly supported by the Institute of Physics 'Light Up Your World!' invites audiences to have fun with hands-on activities as they explore the nature of light and its impact on our daily lives, learn about sunlight and day length, weather, global warming and energy generation and explore the role of light in quantum physics, astrophysics, communication and health care.

Reserve your free place by visiting  
**Events Programme – explorathon**



FAMILY FEST



## FROM FUEL TO FIRE: HOW TO BUILD A ROCKET!

1PM – 2:30PM | Venue: Fraser Noble Building, University of Aberdeen | Price: £3 for adults and children, under 2s free of charge | 5+

**TECHFEST** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  **The Royal Institution**  
Science Lives Here

Get ready for liftoff with our exciting family-friendly science show, "From Fuel to Fire: How to Build a Rocket!"

Join us as we explore everything you need to know to design, build, and launch a rocket. From the basic materials to the science behind propulsion and fuel, this show will ignite curiosity and inspire future scientists and engineers of all ages. Whether you're a budding rocket scientist or just love things that go whoosh, this is one show you won't want to miss! Warning: Don't try this at home — leave it to the pros and enjoy the blast safely with us! Please note children must be accompanied by a ticketed adult.

## LOOK UP WITH SIMON WATT

Simon Watt

**Saturday 20 September | 10:30AM | F | Venue: Fraser Noble Building, University of Aberdeen**  
**Price: £3 for adults and children, under 2s free of charge**

Simon explores some of the science behind space exploration. Which planet is hottest? Which would float in a swimming pool? Which is the most studied? And just how much space is in space? Join him in this live show to see what experiments you can recreate at home or school and learn about what you can see if you only look up!

**Suitable for ages 5 – 11. Please note that children must be accompanied by a ticketed adult.**



## BUILD, DAM, FLOAT

*Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service*

**Saturday 27 September | 10AM – 11:30AM | F | Venue: Hazlehead Woods | Price: £4**

Dive into the world of natural engineering as you create a dam using natural materials and test its strength by seeing if it holds enough water for your handcrafted raft to float. This interactive event is perfect for families and nature enthusiasts looking to explore the wonders of water dynamics and sustainable construction. Come and discover the science behind dams and rafts in a fun and engaging way! Please note only children require tickets, but they must be accompanied by an adult.



# FRINGE EVENTS

## DOORS OPEN DAY

Saturday 6 September, 10AM to 4PM.

The Institute of Medical Science and the Rowett Institute at the University of Aberdeen will be open on Doors Open Day this year with a full day of free, fun, family friendly events. Discover the buildings and their labs through guided tours and learn about our research with different groups who will have lots of family-friendly activities.

Further details can be found here; [Doors Open Days | Aberdeen City](#)



## CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

Wednesday 10 September, 7PM, Aberdeen Art Gallery

What really shapes our health and well-being? Join Kathryn Martin and members of the NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration – Aberdeen for a lively session exploring the wider influences on health and well-being. We will explore together how our everyday lives and the communities in which we live, work and play impact on our health and well-being.



[TICKETS AVAILABLE HERE](#)

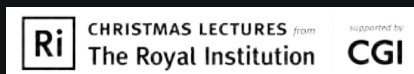


JOIN THE TECHFEST MAILING LIST

## FUTURE EVENTS



### ROYAL INSTITUTION CHRISTMAS LECTURES LIVE STREAM



Our “24 days of STEM” advent calendar offers exciting activities designed for all interested and skill levels. Participants will develop science, design and creative skills while enjoying festive surprises.

**Join the TechFest Mailing List to sign up**

Space scientist, educator and BBC Sky at Night presenter Dr Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock will explore the extraordinary breakthroughs that have revolutionised our understanding of the universe in the 2025 CHRISTMAS LECTURES from the Royal Institution, join TechFest as they host the live stream of the recording.

*Join our mailing list to hear booking details first.*

### TechFest SCHOOLS PROGRAMMES

TechFest also provides fun and inspiring programmes and activities for primary and secondary school-aged children. Explore some of our fantastic Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics offerings by scanning the qr code.



PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!





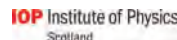
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TechFest is a charity based in Aberdeen that has promoted Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics across Scotland for over 40 years. In addition to Aberdeen Science Festival, we have an extensive education programme spanning from early years to senior school students. We are incredibly grateful to all our sponsors and supporters who allow us to inspire young people and their influencers about opportunities in the world of STEM.

By supporting Aberdeen Science Festival, you support TechFest's year-round community outreach. We regularly work with communities across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire to bring STEM education to life, with engaging hands on activities, workshops and shows.

If You Have Any Questions Or Feedback About Aberdeen Science Festival  
Please Contact Us On [Aberdeensciencefestival@techfest.org.uk](mailto:Aberdeensciencefestival@techfest.org.uk)