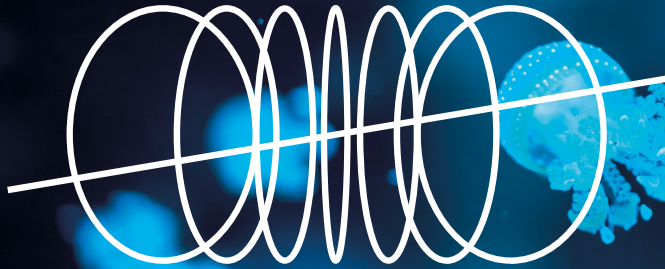


[www.techfest.org.uk](http://www.techfest.org.uk)

Hot Topics  
STEM Nights  
Engaging Experiences  
Family Fest  
Fringe Events



# Aberdeen Science Festival

Powered by **TECHFEST**

## Festival Programme

21–28 September  
2024



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

# Welcome to the 2024 Aberdeen Science Festival!

## A note from TechFest's joint principal sponsors 2024

bp and Shell are proud to jointly sponsor the Aberdeen Science Festival, brought to you by TechFest, an annual celebration of the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Aberdeen Science Festival is bursting with exciting interactive events that encourage attendees of all ages to explore the multi-faceted world of STEM. From insightful presentations to fascinating shows to hands-on workshops, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

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



Doris Reiter  
Senior Vice-President

bp North Sea



Simon Roddy  
Senior Vice-President  
Upstream

Shell U.K. Limited

# Contents

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# 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... from illusions, luck and emotions all the way to dangerous ideas

## Engaging Experiences

Our hands-on section of the programme focuses on those practical experiences. Fancy becoming a forensic scientist for the evening? Creating your own AI assistant? 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 local science from partner organisations to warm up your appetite in the lead up to the Festival.

## 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 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: [enquiries@techfest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@techfest.org.uk) | Website: [techfest.org.uk](http://techfest.org.uk) Scottish Charity number SCO10349

## Ticket booking

Purchase tickets online at Aberdeen Performing Arts or alternatively in person at the Aberdeen Performing Arts box offices at HMT or the Music Hall or by telephone 01224 641122. Opening hours are 10am to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday.

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

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

Please note that booking for the Greyhope Bay event, and all fringe events are on separate sites as detailed in the individual entries.



## Age classification



### Family

These events are designed with the whole family in mind.



### 7+

These events are designed for young innovators over 7 years of age. Please note children must be accompanied by an adult.



### 12+

While over 12s are welcome, under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.



### 18+ Only

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

## Accessibility info

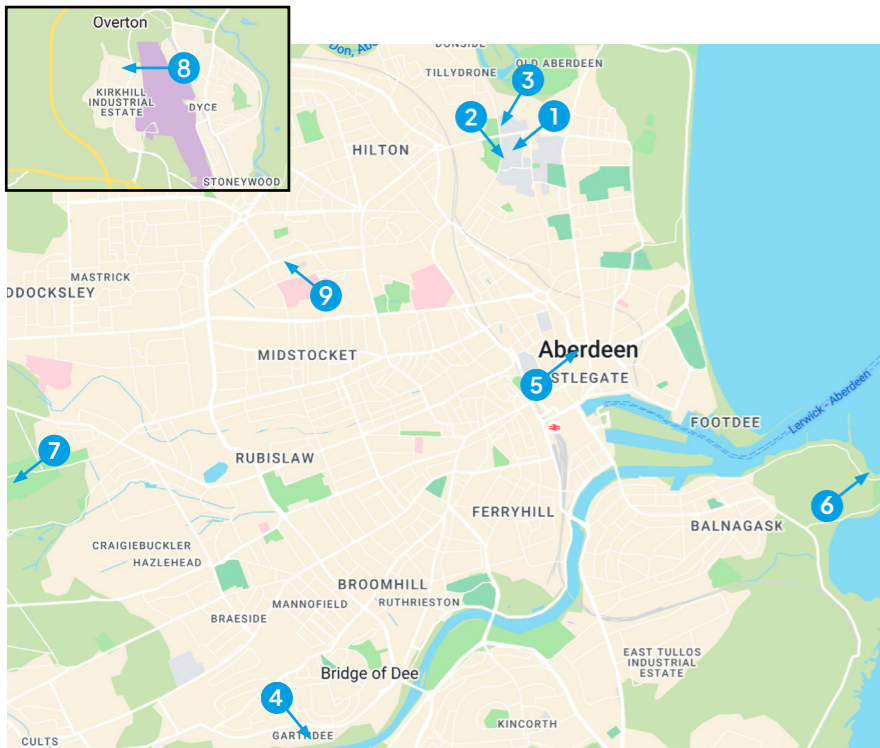
Our venues are situated across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. We are delighted to be hosted by the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University for many of the festival events.

An access guide with details of facilities and what to expect at the festival can be found on the festival website; [www.techfest.org.uk/festival](http://www.techfest.org.uk/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; [enquiries@techfest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@techfest.org.uk)

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

# Venues & map



- 1 University of Aberdeen, Fraser Noble Building**  
Elphinstone Rd, Aberdeen, AB24 3UE
- 2 University of Aberdeen, Sir Duncan Rice Library**  
Bedford Rd, Aberdeen, AB24 3AA
- 3 University of Aberdeen, Zoology Building**  
Zoology Building, Tillydrone Ave, Aberdeen, AB24 2TZ
- 4 Robert Gordon University, Sir Ian Wood Building**  
Garthdee Rd, Garthdee, Aberdeen, AB10 7GJ
- 5 Lemon Tree**  
5 West North Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5AT
- 6 Greyhope Bay**  
Aberdeen AB11 5HB
- 7 Hazlehead Park**  
Hazlehead Ave, Aberdeen AB15 8BE
- 8 Fierce Beer**  
Unit 60 Howe Moss Terrace, Dyce, Aberdeen, AB21 0GR
- 9 The Rowett Institute**  
Ashgrove Road West, Aberdeen AB25 2ZD



## Festival sponsor

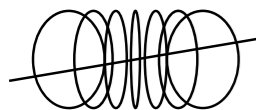
The energy industry depends on advances in science, technology, engineering and maths. Investing in science is key for us to be able to provide the world with the energy it needs in a sustainable way.

TechFest offers something for everyone in STEM – it promotes young children’s natural curiosity as well as offers opportunities for secondary pupils to gain an insight into subjects for future studies or careers.

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’.

**Arne Gürtner, Senior Vice President Upstream in the UK and Ireland at Equinor**





# Aberdeen Science Festival

Powered by **TECHFEST**

## Festival at a glance

### Full events calendar

Welcome to the complete schedule for the Aberdeen Science Festival!

This page provides a comprehensive overview of all the exciting events we have planned. Whether you're a budding scientist, an enthusiastic student, or simply curious about the wonders of science, you'll find a diverse range of events tailored to inspire and educate. Dive in to explore the full line-up and plan your festival experience to ensure you don't miss any of the fascinating discoveries and hands-on fun that await.

#### Saturday 21st September

**Healthy and Sustainable Diets** 10am-2pm  
Venue: Rowett Institute | Price: FREE | Family Event

**Storm Branch Catapults** 11am-12:30pm  
Venue: Hazlehead Woods | Price: £4 | 7+

**From Grain to Glass: Behind the Scenes at Fierce Beer** 12pm-1.30pm  
Venue: Fierce Beer | Price: £6/£4 | 18+ Only

**Why Do We Like Sunshine?** 2pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

**The What, Why and How of Robots** 10am, 11.30pm, 1.30pm & 3pm  
Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £4 | 10+

**Create Your Own AI Assistant** 3pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 14+

#### Sunday 22nd September DISCOVERY DAY

**Explore Old Aberdeen** 11am-4pm  
Explore the hidden secrets of Old Aberdeen with a tour guide from ScotFree Tours. Tours will run at several times throughout the day, meeting point in Zoology Building.

**Zoology Museum** 11am-4pm  
Venue: UoA Zoology Building | Price: FREE | 5+

**Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre** 11am-4pm  
Venue: UoA Zoology Building | Price: FREE | 5+

**Cruickshank Botanic Garden** 11am-4pm  
Venue: Cruickshank Botanic Garden | Price: FREE | 5+

**The 40 Faces Lego Trail** 11am-4pm  
Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library Gallery | Price: FREE | 5+

**Library Exhibition** 11.30am-4pm  
Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library | Price: FREE | 5+

**The Ugly Animal Show** 3pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble | Price: FREE (Booking Required)  
Family Event

**Sci-Fi Snobbery** 7pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble | Price: FREE (Booking Required)  
18+ Only

#### Monday 23rd September

**Guided Coastal Discovery** 11am-12.30pm  
Venue: Greyhope Bay | Price: £5/£3 | 5+

**AI in Research and Developing Tests for Diabetes** 6:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

**Dogs, Bugs and AI: the Disease Detectives** 7:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

#### Tuesday 24th September

**The Evidence Chamber** 4pm-5:30pm & 6pm-7:30pm  
Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 18+ Only

**What do Gases, Epidemics, Society and Life Have in Common?** 6:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

**Designing Deceptions** 7:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

#### Wednesday 25th September

**Journey to Mars** 6:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

**So You Want To Be a Forensic Scientist?** 7pm-9pm  
Price: £6/£4 | 18+ Only  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building, Robert Gordon University

**Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas** 7pm  
Venue: Lemon Tree | Price: £6/£4 | 18+ Only

#### Thursday 26th September

**Science of Emotions** 7pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

#### Friday 27th September

**Science and the City** 2pm-3:30pm  
Venue: Meeting point outside Marischal College  
Price: £6/£4 | 16+

**What Can I Say to Alexa?** 6:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | Family

**Do You Feel Lucky?** 7:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

#### Saturday 28th September

**The Night Sky** 10, 11, 12, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building, Robert Gordon University  
Price: FREE (Booking Required) | 7+

**Robotic Adventures** 10am & 11:30am  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building, Robert Gordon University  
Price: £6/£4 | 7+

**Move with Microbots** 1:30pm & 3pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building, Robert Gordon University  
Price: £6/£4 | 7+

**Welcome to Mars** 11, 12, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building, Robert Gordon University  
Price: FREE (Booking Required) | 7+

**Fashion and the Rise of DARQ Technologies for Sustainability** 2:30pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building, Robert Gordon University  
Price: £6/£4 | 12+

**Forensic Pathology in an Ever Changing World** 7pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building, Robert Gordon University  
Price: £6/£4 | 18+ Only

Scan the QR code to book tickets >



Or visit [www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/whats-on/](http://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/whats-on/)

See page 5 for full information about booking tickets.

# 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.



## Why Do We Like Sunshine?

12+

Dr Olga Runcie

Sat 21 Sep | £6/£4 | 2pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building,  
University of Aberdeen

Discover how sunlight positively impacts our health and physiology. We'll explore the science behind why we feel happier and more energetic on sunny days, looking into the role of sunlight in vitamin D production, mood regulation, and circadian rhythms. Learn about the surprising ways in which sunlight influences our physical and mental well-being, and gain practical tips on how to safely enjoy the benefits of sunshine. This talk is perfect for anyone interested in understanding the vital connection between sunlight and human health.



## AI in Research and Developing Tests for Diabetes

12+

Dr Nimesh Mody &  
Dr Rodanthi Zindrili

Mon 23 Sep | £6/£4 | 6.30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building,  
University of Aberdeen

There are several different types of diabetes, the most common being Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Despite how common they are accurate diagnosis remains challenging, meaning the treatments patients receive, if any, are suboptimal. The capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI) present significant opportunities for advancing scientific research and discovery. We will discuss the exciting new uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research and how we are using AI to develop tests for different sub-types of diabetes.



## Dogs, Bugs and AI: the Disease Detectives

12+

Professor James Logan

Mon 23 Sep | £6/£4 | 7:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen

Join Scientist and TV presenter, Professor James Logan, for an eye-opening talk on the future of disease detection! Discover how scientists are tapping into the incredible scent-detection abilities of insects and dogs to identify illnesses; from training dogs to sniff out malaria to using insects as natural disease detectors, this session will reveal the innovative techniques transforming medical diagnostics, which could even lead to smart watches of the future alerting you when you are ill.. don't miss this fascinating glimpse into the power of nature in healthcare.



Maths Week  
Scotland

UNIVERSITY OF  
ABERDEEN

## What Do Gases, Epidemics, Society and Life Have in common?

12+

Dr Francisco Perez-Reche  
Tue 24 Sep | £6/£4 | 6:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building,  
University of Aberdeen

What links gases, epidemics, society, and life? They are all complex systems that physicists and mathematicians are deciphering using simple models. Join us to discover how these models shed light on infection spread, viral social contagion, and life's emergence. Don't miss this fascinating exploration of complexity through the lens of science!



## Journey to Mars: Aberdeen's Role in Pioneering Red Planet Exploration

12+

Professor Javier Martin Torres  
Wed 25 Sep | £6/£4 | 6:30pm  
Venue: Fraser Noble building,  
University of Aberdeen

Discover the ground-breaking contributions of the University of Aberdeen to Mars exploration and how they are going to pave the way for future human exploration. Learn how Aberdeen's scientists will produce liquid water, oxygen and fuel on Mars, and how they are helping to unlock the mysteries of the Red Planet. Join us for a fascinating journey through space, science, and the future of planetary exploration.

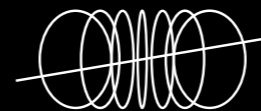


## Fashion and the Rise of DARQ Technologies for Sustainability

12+

Yemi Scott  
Sat 28 Sep | £6/£4 | 2:30pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building,  
Robert Gordon University

This presentation will explore the transformative power of technology and innovation, particularly in the fashion industry. It will journey through Yemi Scott's personal experiences, highlighting how she harnessed technology to drive sustainability and equity within the fashion sector.



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Scan the QR code to  
book tickets >

Or visit  
[www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/whats-on/](http://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/whats-on/)

See page 5 for full information about booking tickets.



# STEM Nights

After dark, these evening events are where the serious scientific ideas are discussed in a different way... from illusions, luck and emotions all the way to dangerous ideas.



## Sci- Fi Snobbery

Simon Watt and Dr Jamie Gallagher

Sun 22 Sep | FREE (Booking Required) | 7pm

Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen

What is the best science fiction film of all time? That's the question posed by terminal Trekki Jamie Gallagher and sci-fi cynic Simon Watt at this event. Join them as they delve into the movie archives and debate the cinematic merits (and scientific oversights) of some of their favourite science fiction flicks.

Is 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial' more plausible than 'Alien'? Does 1985's 'Back to the Future' present a more intriguing depiction of time travel than 2020's 'Tenet'? And is 'The Matrix' so iconic that we can forgive its sub-par sequels?

Bring your smart phone to play along and have your say!

18+



## Designing Deceptions

Dr Matt Pritchard

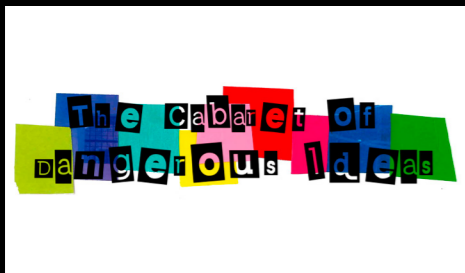
Tue 24 Sep | £6/£4 | 7:30pm

Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen

Optical illusions have both an artistic and scientific appeal as they question our perception of reality. This fast paced and demonstration packed talk will explore how the mind can be deceived, and how optical principles, smart materials, and even typographical word play can be exploited in magic effects. The presenter, Dr Matt Pritchard, is a two-time winner of the international "Best Illusion of the Year Contest".

12+





## Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas

University of Aberdeen

Wed 25 Sep | £6/£4 | 7pm

Venue: Lemon Tree

A blend of controversial academic research, audience interaction, and a dash of comedy. Join us to hear from academics about the latest ideas that push boundaries, challenge assumptions and take us into the realm of dangerous ideas!



18+



## Science of Emotions

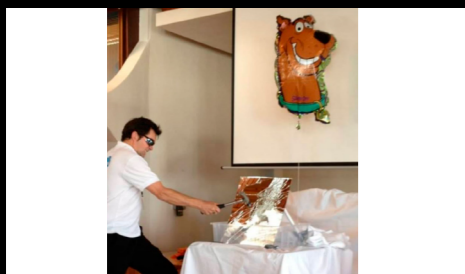
Dr Emma Hepburn (@thepsychologygym)

Thu 26 Sep | £6/£4 | 7pm

Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen

Feeling happy, sad, frustrated, overwhelmed or scunnered? Then this talk is for you. We will look at what emotions actually are and why emotions are a critical part of brain functioning. We'll consider what science tells us about emotions to answer a range of different questions: How does our brain create emotions? What would happen if we just had feel good emotions? How can we best respond to difficult emotions?

12+



## Do You Feel Lucky?

Jon Davis (thinkscience)

Fri 27 Sep | £6/£4 | 7:30pm

Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen

Discover the science of Luck. Are you superstitious? Would you walk under a ladder? Witness powerful mind-reading and a smashing finale!

12+



## Forensic Pathology in an Ever Changing World

Professor James Grieve

Sat 28 Sep | £6/£4 | 7pm

Venue: Robert Gordon University

Providing the reasoning behind sudden and unexplained deaths, Forensic Pathology plays a crucial role in helping families and wider society make sense of chaotic and devastating situations.

In this eye-opening session, Forensic Pathologist Professor James Grieve discusses how the practice of this fascinating science has changed over his career, and how it can garner valuable insights into the lives and deaths of the deceased, including those involved in international disasters and war crimes.

18+



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# Engaging Experiences

Our hands-on section of the programme focusses on those practical experiences. Fancy becoming a forensic scientist for the evening? Creating your own AI assistant? Delve into this part of the programme and embrace your inner scientist.



## From Grain to Glass: Behind the Scenes at Fierce Beer

18+

Fierce Beer

Sat 21 Sep | £6/£4 | 12–1:30pm  
Venue: Fierce Beer Taproom

What goes into crafting the perfect pint?

From kernel to keg, Fierce Beer invites you to step into Aberdeen's only craft brewery for an exclusive multi-sensory experience like no other. As you're guided around the brewhouse, fermentation tanks and barrel store, you'll be invited to taste, smell and touch the ingredients Fierce Beer expertly blends into some of Aberdeen's best-loved beers.



## The What, Why and How of Robots

10+

National Robotarium

Sat 21 Sep | £6/£4  
10am, 11.30am, 1.30pm & 3pm  
Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library,  
University of Aberdeen

Want to learn more about robots and what they can do? Come along and meet two different robots widely used in industry and entertainment and get hands-on operating our claw-bots. Can you get the robot to collect and move the blocks? Can you score a goal in robot football? Why not come along and find out!



## Create Your Own AI Assistant

Caroline Laurenson

Sat 21 Sep | £6/£4 | 3pm  
Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library,  
University of Aberdeen

Ever heard of a "Conversation Designer"? How about a "Prompt Engineer"? Before the rise of ChatGPT, few people knew about these roles. Yet, these AI pioneers are changing the world of work and how we communicate. Step into their shoes to create your own virtual assistant that utilises complex language models to understand human interactions, gather information, and generate content based on only a few lines of written instructions. Please bring a laptop if you wish to follow along live with the build in this interactive lecture, although having your own device is not essential for participation.



## The Evidence Chamber

16+

Leverhulme Research Centre  
for Forensic Science

Tue 24 Sep | £6/£4  
4–5.30pm & 6–7.30pm  
Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library,  
University of Aberdeen

**Note: This event will involve reading out loud.**

There's been a murder. A suspect is in police custody. But is the real killer still on the loose? At this immersive event, Forensic Scientists from the Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science and digital story studio Fast Familiar give you the power to change someone's life. You and your fellow juror will scrutinise the evidence and use your powers of deduction to reach verdict.



## So you want to be a Forensic Scientist?

18+

Dr Wendy Deegan

Wed 25 Sep | £6 | 7pm - 9pm  
Venue: Robert Gordon University

Got an eye for detail and a knack for knowing whodunnit?

Put your detective skills to the test as you enter the RGU forensic lab for an evening of crime, clues and curiosity. With the help of Dr Wendy Deegan, you'll analyse the evidence, piece together the case, and learn more about how the professionals use analytical chemistry, forensic toxicology, and ever-evolving DNA techniques to uncover the truth and find the culprit. Please note that as this is an over 18s event the crime will be of a serious nature and not for the faint-hearted!



## Science and the City

16+

Dr Chris Croly

Fri 27 Sep | £6/£4 | 2pm - 3:30pm  
Venue: Meeting point outside Marischal College

Join Dr Chris Croly to explore people and places associated with scientific advances around the city centre. Aberdeen has been associated with a number of scientific advances over the centuries - we will explore the people and places associated with these advances.

Tour starts outside Marischal College.



## The Night Sky

7+

TechFest

Sat 28 Sep  
FREE (Booking Required)  
10am, 11am, 12am, 1:30pm,  
2.30pm, 3.30pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building,  
Robert Gordon University

Enjoy a visit to the unique environment of the TechFest Dome. Find out why we have day and night, wonder at a sky full of stars and discover the constellations and take part in space related activities.



## Robotic Adventures

(Recommended age 7-11)

7+

Heart of Midlothian  
Innovation Centre

Sat 28 Sep | £6/£4 | 10am, 11.30am  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building,  
Robert Gordon University

Get ready for an exciting 25-minute\* robotics adventure! Open to everyone aged 7-11, participants will unleash their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills to design, build, and code their very own Lego robots. Dive into themes like environmental and animal conservation and discover that in this workshop, imagination has no limits!



## Move with Microbits

(Recommended age 7-11)

7+

Heart of Midlothian  
Innovation Centre

Sat 28 Sep | £6/£4 | 1:30pm & 3pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building,  
Robert Gordon University

Dive into the exciting world of sports technology with this workshop! Open to young enthusiasts aged 7-11, participants will learn how to use the micro:bits to make step counters. After designing their projects, they'll test them out in fun outdoor activities. Get ready to combine tech, movement and data in a whole new way!



## Welcome to Mars

7+

Cromar Future Group

Sat 28 Sep | FREE (Booking Required)  
11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm  
Venue: Sir Ian Wood Building,  
Robert Gordon University

The year is 2124. Our young crew from Beacon Base on Mars, are recruiting new colonists and attracting tourists. Have you got what it takes to visit or live on Mars? Come and find out at this family friendly event rated "5 stars" by visitors during British Science Week. The event is free but you must book your place.

# 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.

## Healthy and Sustainable Diets from Cfine and Rowett

Cfine and Rowett  
**Sat 21 Sep | FREE | 10am - 2pm** **F**  
**Venue: Rowett Institute**

Join in this family event which will include hands-on workshops on zero waste cooking, cooking on a budget, healthy and sustainable cooking and some fun badge making activities.



## Storm Branch Catapults

Aberdeen City Rangers  
**Sat 21 Sep | £4 | 11am - 12.30pm** **F**  
**Venue: Hazlehead Woods**

Do you think you can build your own mini catapult from branches and stones? Join Aberdeen City Council's Countryside Ranger and build your own catapult made from natural materials! Learn the history and the science behind this wonder of mechanical engineering and see how far your stone can fly.

**All attending children require a ticket, but accompanying adults must stay.**



## Discovery Day

Event organised in collaboration with Explorathon  
**Sun 22 Sep | FREE | 11am - 4pm** **F**  
**Venue: University of Aberdeen: Zoology Building**

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! Venues include University of Aberdeen Zoology Museum, Sir Duncan Rice Library and Cruickshank Botanic Gardens.



## The 40 Faces Lego Trail

Sir Duncan Rice Library  
**Sun 22 Sep | FREE | 11am-4pm** **F**  
**Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library Gallery**

We're looking at faces this year as part of the Aberdeen Science Festival. Head to the Library Gallery (on the Ground Floor) to explore the "Striking Impressions" exhibition which is all about faces. Then grab a trail sheet and see if you can find all 40 Lego minifig faces that we've hidden in the display cases in the Sir Duncan Rice Library Gallery and the Zoology Museum. Some are easy to spot, and others a little more difficult!



## University of Aberdeen Zoology Museum

Zoology Building  
**Sun 22 Sep | FREE | 11am - 4pm** **F**  
**Venue: University of Aberdeen: Zoology Building**

The 40 Faces Lego Trail continues in the Zoology Museum. Whilst you are searching, enjoy displays that include taxidermy, skeletons, fluid-preserved specimens and models.

## Cruickshank Botanic Garden

Cruickshank Botanic Garden  
**Sun 22 Sep | FREE | 11am - 4pm** **F**  
**Venue: Cruickshank Botanic Garden**

Explore the Beauty of the Botanic in this tranquil oasis in the middle of Aberdeen.

## Library Exhibition

Sir Duncan Rice Library  
**Sun 22 Sep | FREE | 11:30am - 4pm** **F**  
**Venue: Sir Duncan Rice Library**

Visit the exhibition "Striking Impressions" and discover how faces have been interpreted and depicted in different ways. Anatomy, divination, caricature, sculpture, painting, masks - there's a lot on display! We don't just want people to look at stuff though - throughout the exhibition we're encouraging visitors to reflect and engage with the displays creatively. There's even a creative space in the middle of the gallery where you can just sit and use the art supplies provided.

## The Ugly Animal Show

Dr Simon Watt  
**Sun 22 Sep | FREE (Booking Required)** **F**  
**3pm | Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen**

At the Ugly Animal Preservation Society, we celebrate and explore the incredible biology of the animal kingdom's most monstrous. What adaptations make them amazing? How did such hideous creatures evolve in the first place? The show features videos, demonstrations and lots and lots of audience participation.



## Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre

Zoology Building  
**Sun 22 Sep | FREE | 11am - 4pm** **F**  
**Venue: Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre**

Explore this hands-on classroom and learn more about the importance of biodiversity and the environment.



## Guided Coastal Discovery

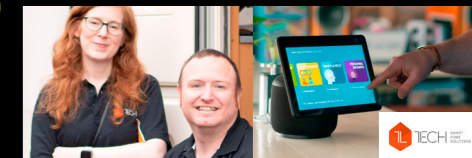
Greyhope Bay  
**Mon 23 Sep | £5/£3 | 11am - 12:30am** **F**  
**Greyhope Bay**

Join us as we explore the amazing beaches that surround the Greyhope Bay Centre! During this guided beach walk, we'll discover what has been washed up on the shore by the late summer tides. We'll also spend some time identifying your finds and learning more about the creatures that call our coast home. What will you find?

Tickets for this event must be purchased with Greyhope Bay's Eventbrite page.



Scan the QR code to book tickets->



## What Can I Say to Alexa?

Caroline Laurenson  
**Fri 27 Sep | £6/£4 | 6:30pm** **F**  
**Venue: Fraser Noble building, University of Aberdeen**

Think you know your smart speaker? Think again! In this 45-minute session, Caroline Laurenson will unlock its potential to make your life easier and more enjoyable. Discover hidden features and move beyond basic commands with the skills, widgets, flash briefings and routines that will allow you to fully customise your experience and keep your data safe.

# Fringe Events

A taste of science from the University of Aberdeen and Explorathon

## Café Sci – Scotland's Prehistoric Geometry

Dr Richard Hepworth-Young  
Wed 4 Sep | FREE | 7pm  
Venue: Aberdeen Art Gallery



Carved stone balls are prehistoric objects that have been discovered across Britain and Ireland, but mainly in north-east Scotland. There are many theories about their purpose and significance, one of which is that they represent geometric objects: polyhedra. In this talk we will explore the carved stone balls, the mathematics of polyhedra, and the question of whether the two are related.

## Doors Open Day Institute of Medical Sciences

Sat 7 Sep | FREE | 10am – 4pm  
Venue: The Institute of Medical Sciences

The Institute of Medical Sciences will be open on Doors Open Day this year with a full day of free, fun, family friendly events. Discover the building and its labs through guided tours and learn about our research with different research groups in the main atrium who will have lots of family friendly activities.

## The Orkney Cancer Gene: Discovery and Lessons

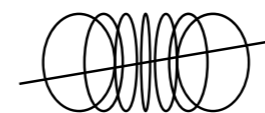
Professor Zosia Miedzybrodzka  
Wed 11 Sep | FREE | 7pm  
Venue: OneBioHub

Recent research has identified breast and ovarian cancer genes in families from Orkney and Shetland. Lab science and population genetics have helped pilot a new origin-based approach that could bring testing to those who need it wherever they are living now, saving lives and also NHS budgets. This talk will survey the discovery journey, just how much we have achieved and the way forward.

## TechFest through the year.

TechFest is a charity based in Aberdeen that has promoted Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics across Scotland for the last 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 TechFests 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.



**Aberdeen Science Festival**

Powered by **TECHFEST**



Scan QR to visit booking site for fringe events >



Join our mailing list for more details as they are available >



# Future events



## Scotland's Digital Science Festival Powered by TechFest

1-8 November 2024

As the nights draw in and the weather is dreich, you can still enjoy the wonder of TechFest without setting a foot outdoors. Join like-minded people from around the World for the Digital Science Festival and participate in a myriad of activities and presentations from the comfort of your own armchair.



## The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures

December 2024

Come along to the livestream of the filming of the iconic Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. Filmed over three evenings, glimpse behind the scenes of this years topic, yet to be announced. Join our mailing list for more details as they are available.



## 24 Days of STEM

December 2024

Our '24 Days of STEM' advent calendar offers exciting activities designed for all interests and skill levels. Participants will develop science, design, and coding skills while enjoying festive surprises.

# We would like to thank our sponsors and supporters\*

TechFest is kindly hosted by the University of Aberdeen

\*This page acknowledges the generous contributions of all our sponsors and supporters at the time of the programme being published.

### Joint Principal Sponsors



### Aberdeen Science Festival Sponsor



### Sponsors



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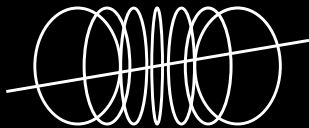


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# Aberdeen Science Festival

Powered by **TECHFEST**

## Interested in ASF 2025?

If you have an event you think would be a great fit for Aberdeen Science Festival 2025, please contact the team on [enquiries@techfest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@techfest.org.uk)

Aberdeen Science Festival is coordinated by TechFest.  
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