

ABERDEEN & ABERDEENSHIRE  
**EVENTS GUIDE**

11 – 20 March 2016



# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2016

**Get involved  
this March**

#BSW16

# British Science Week 2016

## Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Events Guide



British Science Week is the UK's annual celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, led by the British Science Association. This March, the Aberdeen Branch of the British Science Association, along with many partners and support from the University of Aberdeen, is delighted to bring you an exciting programme of talks, workshops and hands-on activities. Most are free and all will inspire you to think, question and try something new! This year we will be providing more opportunities to get involved with Science Week digitally, check out our Facebook page and our **#BSW16ABDN** hashtag on Twitter for updates and surprises throughout the week.

**Dr Heather Doran, British Science Association, Aberdeen Branch Chair**

**W** [britishscienceassociation.org/aberdeen](http://britishscienceassociation.org/aberdeen)

**f** [/britishscienceassociationaberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/britishscienceassociationaberdeen)

**E** [aberdeenbranch@britishscienceassociation.org](mailto:aberdeenbranch@britishscienceassociation.org)

Our cover image was taken at the University of Aberdeen Zoology Museum, visit Monday - Friday between 9am - 5pm, entry is free. The British Science Association is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SCO39236.

### Saturday 12 March

## Weird Science with SHMU FM



10am - 1pm Sat 12 March and 2pm - 3pm Tue 15 March

Tune in to SHMU radio on 99.8 FM for a Talking Science special radio show brought to you by the Youth Radio Project and the Talking Science radio show team from the University of Aberdeen. This jam packed show will try out experiments live on air and explore key science themes in genetics and physics along with interviews and discussion. **Listen online: [shmu.org.uk/fm](http://shmu.org.uk/fm)**

### Saturday 12 March

## Secret Wildlife of Aberdeenshire



11am - 3pm, Haddo House & Country Park, Ellon, AB41 7EQ

**Free admission, drop-in event. Contact Diana Spencer, [haddo@visithaddo.com](mailto:haddo@visithaddo.com) or call 01651 851041**

Discover the secret wildlife of Aberdeenshire. See amazing images of wildlife from Haddo and further afield, and learn how you too can use camera traps and other sneaky tricks to record your local wildlife. Event organised with North-East Scotland Biological Records Centre.

### Saturday 12 March

## EXPLORE Geographic Information Systems



10am - 3pm,

Scott Sutherland School of Architecture & Built Environment, Robert Gordon University, Sir Ian Wood Building, AB10 7QB

**Free admission, drop-in event**

Find your house. Look around your city. Explore your favourite places in the world; where you have been and where you would like to go. Then, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) you can:

Use the software to make maps and tell stories about you and about your adventures.

GIS brings the world to you on your computer screen and you are in charge of how you want your maps to look. Explore GIS while you explore the world.

Organised by Toni Fisher, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture & Built Environment, Robert Gordon University.

### Saturday 12 March

## Caesarean section through the ages

### a north-east Scotland perspective



12pm - 1pm, Aberdeen Central Library, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1GW

**Free admission, no booking required**

**Speaker: Dr Mairead Black, Clinical Lecturer, University of Aberdeen**

This talk will explore how caesarean section has evolved from a rare life-saving procedure to one which fits with 21st-century expectations of birth. Patterns of births in north-east Scotland since 1950 will be discussed, with comparisons made to national and international centres.

### Saturday 12 March



## Climate Week Aberdeen!

A range of activities are taking place from the 12th March leading up to Earth hour on 19th March 2016 including talks, arts projects, astronomy and rangers walks.

For more information and to access the programme please visit [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/earthhour](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/earthhour)

Sunday 13 March

## We're Going on a Bear Hunt



10.30am - 12 noon, Hazlehead Park: small swing park on Groats Road

£7 per child. Book online at [www.mudpleadventures.co.uk](http://www.mudpleadventures.co.uk)

Calling all tiny scientists! Come for a splash and a splosh and a squelch and a squerch with Mandy Tulloch of Mud Pies to find out about the nature of the woods whilst we go on a bear hunt! Suitable for 2 to 5 year olds. Please wear wellies and waterproofs (yes adults too!)

Monday 14 March

## Café MED Excellent research drives excellent care: Huntington's Disease

6pm, Suttie Centre, Foresterhill Health Campus, Aberdeen AB25 5ZD

Free admission, no booking required. [www.engagingaberdeen.co.uk](http://www.engagingaberdeen.co.uk)

Speakers: Professor Zosia Miedzzybrodzka, Dr Karen Keenan and Ms Daniela Rae, University of Aberdeen

Aberdeen is an international leader in care and research for Huntington's disease, an incurable brain disease which passes from parent to child. Join research figures and representatives from the Scottish Huntington's Association at this informal event for a discussion on the latest trials of new medicines and to find out how research in Aberdeen is working to improve the future for families around the world.

Tuesday 15 March

## GATTACA: a glimpse into our genetic future? Film screening and discussion



6pm - 8.45pm, Belmont Filmhouse, Belmont Street, Aberdeen AB10 1JS

Free admission, please book via the Belmont Filmhouse

The 1997 film *GATTACA* explores a world where everyone's complete genetic information is routinely available. Most births are of people selected with desirable traits while those who are born by chance are discriminated against. With our scientific advances in recent times, could this fiction soon become reality? Join **Dr Jonathan Pettitt** (University of Aberdeen), who will discuss the scientific concepts explored by the film and place them in the context of our current understanding of genetics then sit back, relax and enjoy the movie. This event is supported by the Genetics Society.

Tuesday 15 March

## The Untold Story of Aberdeen's Women in Science

6pm - 7.30pm Waterstones Union Bridge, Aberdeen AB11 6BG

Free admission, no booking required

Join us for a fascinating evening as we share stories of some of Aberdeen's first women scientists with **ScienceGrrl Dr Sarah Hughes**, hear first-hand accounts of inspirational moments, struggles and triumphs from a biologist and an engineer, and be inspired by **Jeanette Forbes CEO of the PCL Group**, Inspirational Woman of the Year (Business Women Scotland), as she discusses her career journey and the importance of women in science. Although this event aims to encourage more women into science, it promises to be an inspirational event for all! All welcome.

## Busting the Myth

8.30pm - 10.30pm Café Drummonds, Belmont Street, Aberdeen AB10 1BF

Free admission, no booking required

Join the Aberdeen ScienceGrrl's after the *Untold Stories* Event to continue the celebration of women in science. Come along and listen to some super-smart women busting some science myths and test your knowledge of popular science with our pub quiz.

Wednesday 16 March

## Bring Your Own Brain VI Be a good sport

6pm - 7.30pm, Suttie Centre Lecture Theatre, Foresterhill Health Campus, AB25 5ZD

Free admission, no booking required

With the Summer Olympics on the horizon, four short neuroscience presentations led by **Guy Bewick**, **Simon Parson**, **Constance Hesse** and **Gernot Riedel** from the University of Aberdeen will investigate how important brains can be in an athlete's preparation, from how the brain keeps them coordinated and is affected by their motion to how success can change our perception of the world and the diseases that rob us of the ability to move.

Wednesday 16 March

## TechMeetup: What does living digitally mean when we die?



6.30pm Meet in the north end of the Meston Building, Old Aberdeen, University of Aberdeen, AB24 3UE

Free admission, no booking required

Speaker: **Dr Wendy Moncur**, Reader in Socio-Digital Interaction, University of Dundee

We are increasingly living out aspects of our lives digitally. But what happens when we die? This talk will explore what a 'digital life' really means, why it's so difficult to completely terminate your digital presence when you die and, how you can be an active, even vocal, digital entity in the after-life.

Wednesday 16 March

## Café Scientifique How do we find oil?

7pm - 8.30pm, Waterstones Union Bridge, Aberdeen, AB11 6BG

Free admission, no booking required. [www.engagingaberdeen.co.uk](http://www.engagingaberdeen.co.uk)

Speaker: **Professor John Howell**, Geology and Petroleum Geology, University of Aberdeen

Join us at this informal talk and discussion. For 40 years, the oil industry has shaped the economy of Aberdeen and the UK, but what do all those people do? How do we find and produce this precious resource and what lies in store for the industry as we transition to a low carbon future?

Thursday 17 March

## Healthy Eating for a Healthy Heart



6pm - 7pm, Information Centre, Aberdeen Central Library, Rosemount Viaduct AB25 1GW

Free, Booking essential. E: [healthinfo@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:healthinfo@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or T: 01224 652513 to secure your free place.

**Dr Frank Thies** from the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health at the University of Aberdeen will give a talk about the influence of diet on cardiovascular risk. There will be opportunity before and after the talk to explore what Aberdeen City Libraries has on offer to support health and wellbeing including the new healthy reading collections.

Thursday 17 March

## Speed Science

6pm - 7pm, Holburn Bar, 225 Holburn Street, Aberdeen AB10 6BL

Free, booking required online at [speedscience16.eventbrite.co.uk](http://speedscience16.eventbrite.co.uk). Age 18+

Like speed dating, without the dating. Join the brightest lights in Scottish biology for a fast-paced 'speed science' session where you, the audience, get to vote on the best of the bunch. Hosted by the East of Scotland BioScience Doctoral Training Partnership.

Thursday 17 March

## Aberdeen Skeptics in the Pub and the QI Elf

7.30pm, Holburn Bar, 225 Holburn Street, Aberdeen AB10 6BL

£5/£3 Booking required at [aberdeenskepticsqi.eventbrite.co.uk](http://aberdeenskepticsqi.eventbrite.co.uk) Age 18+

Stevyn Colgan has been involved with aliens for three decades. In this entertaining talk, you'll hear about feuding gangs of scientists, film directors with less imagination than children, and the perils of concrete poo. Stevyn Colgan is an author, artist, songwriter, speaker and one of the 'Elves' that research and write the popular BBC TV series 'QI' and co-writes its sister show, 'The Museum of Curiosity', for BBC Radio 4.

Friday 18 March

## Museum Lates: Ice & Fire

7pm - 9.30pm, University of Aberdeen Zoology Museum, Tillydrone Avenue AB24 2TZ

£6 (£4 concession), booking required. Age 18+. [museumlatesiceandfire.eventbrite.co.uk](http://museumlatesiceandfire.eventbrite.co.uk)

Join us for an adult only special science themed evening with music, face painting, animal handling, and a rare opportunity to explore the museum at night. There will be a cash bar.



Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 March

## Code the City 6: The History Jam

Meston Building, Old Aberdeen, University of Aberdeen AB24 3UE

All day Saturday and Sunday, Free Find more details, and registration <http://codethecity.org/>

Join us for an interactive weekend of idea generation, open data and coding. We will be exploring how we can create and use open data to better understand the past around us.



Saturday 19 March

## Rocketeers!

11am - 2pm, Haddo House & Country Park, Ellon AB41 7EQ

£2 per child, pay on the day Contact Diana Spencer, [haddo@visithaddo.com](mailto:haddo@visithaddo.com) or call 01651 851041

How high can you fly! Make and decorate your own mini-rockets then use some amazing, easy chemistry to make them shoot into the air. Recommended for children 6yrs+.



Saturday 19 March

## EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour is a global movement raising awareness of climate change and environmental protection. Individuals and organisations can support Earth Hour by switching off their lights between 8.30 - 9.30pm. To sign up and find out more please visit [www.earthhour.org/](http://www.earthhour.org/) For more information on Aberdeen events and switch offs for Earth Hour the programme is available here [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/earthhour](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/earthhour)



Saturday 19 March

# FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY

10am - 4pm, Aberdeen Science Centre, Satrosphere, The Tramsheds, 179 Constitution Street, Aberdeen AB24 5TU. **Formerly Satrosphere** Travel details and map available at [aberdeensciencecentre.org](http://aberdeensciencecentre.org) or T: 01224 640340

£1 entry, under 3s FREE.

The British Science Association Branch in Aberdeen welcomes you to their annual Discovery Day. Come along to meet many of the organisations involved in Science Week including the University of Aberdeen and Sciencegrlls. On the day you can find out more about Scotland's Super Sharks, investigate science super powers, get nautical and much more! A day of fun activities, workshops and shows for all the family.



# ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS

## Schools Poster Competition with Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre, University of Aberdeen

[www.abdn.ac.uk/biodiversity](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/biodiversity) T: 01224 274545 E: [biodiversity@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:biodiversity@abdn.ac.uk)

**Primary 1-7** Win a camera trap and a workshop for your school!

In groups, use your senses to explore an outdoor area and the biodiversity that lives there. Create a collage to display the things your sense helped you discover, labelling some of the different wildlife you found. Use 5 words to describe how being outdoors and connecting to nature made you feel.

**Secondary S1 - S3** Win a camera trap and a wildlife home for your school grounds!

In small groups, design a science experiment you can do in your school grounds. Create an A3 poster detailing your experiment and explain why the outdoor environment is a good place to do this.

**Print your name, class and school on the reverse of your poster and send entries by Friday 29 April 2016 to Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre, Zoology Building, University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, AB24 2TZ**

## Asteroids and Space Invaders!

University of Aberdeen | Suitable for P4 - S3 | Free, Outreach for Schools

Contact Joey Lam to book email: [jlam@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:jlam@abdn.ac.uk), phone: 01224 272287

Children will create their own space themed computer game. No previous programming experience necessary.

## Aberdeenshire Science

Aberdeenshire Ranger Service | Nursery - S6

14 - 19 March | Free | Venue: locations throughout Aberdeenshire

Please visit the Ranger Service webpages for more information on the service and to find contact details for your area ranger [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/ranger-service](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/ranger-service)

Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service are able to offer sessions for classes from Nursery to Secondary. We will discuss with the teacher the requirements of the class and agree a suitable site and programme of activities to meet those needs.

## Habitats and Homes

Macduff Marine Aquarium/Macduff Town Hall

Monday 7 - Wednesday 9 March & Monday 14 - Tuesday 15 March

10am - 2pm | P2 - P4 | £10 per class + £2.50 per child, 1 adult comes free for every 10 children that visit & extra adults cost £5.15

Contact: Sandra Bisset T: 01261 833369

Discover the creatures that make the sea their home at Macduff Marine Aquarium before exploring life on land, looking up close at beasts with Aberdeenshire Council's Ranger Service.

## Bombus Bonanza!

Outreach to Aberdeen City schools (P5 and older)

Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service

All through Science Week, 1 hour (or more by negotiation)

FREE, to book email [Lochinch@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:Lochinch@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or phone 01224 326 429

Contact name: Simon Whitworth

**P5 and older**

In small teams your class of busy bumblebees will compete to influence the construction and success of a table top nest. Pupils will learn about our native bees in this classroom activity, the dangers that face them and their importance to the plants and people of Scotland.

**P4 and younger**

In small teams your class of busy bumblebees will search for pollen, nectar and water (coloured plastic balls) and return them to their nest. Pupils will learn about our native bees in this fun outdoor activity, the dangers that face them and their importance to the plants and people of Scotland.

## Water, Water Everywhere!!

Duthie Park Ranger Service, David Welch Winter Gardens, Duthie Park

Mon 14 March 9.30 - 11am, Mon 14 March 1 - 2.30pm, Tues 15 March 9.30 - 11am, Wed 16 March 1 - 2.30pm, Thurs 17 March 1 - 2.30pm

Suitable for P6 or P7

FREE contact [DuthieParkRangerService@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:DuthieParkRangerService@aberdeencity.gov.uk) to book

Come along and meet the Duthie Park Ranger Service. Together we will carry out several hands-on experiments to discover the importance of water, and how it moves in and around plants.

## Destination Space: Crew Training with Aberdeen Science Centre

Outreach visit to your school

Tuesday 15 March and Thursday 17 March | FREE  
2 x 1 hour sessions, available between 9.15am and 12.30pm only

Age: P5 - P7, maximum 30 pupils per session

Contact Cat Wynne at [catriona.wynne@satrosphere.net](mailto:catriona.wynne@satrosphere.net), or call 01224 640340 to book.

This workshop explores astronaut Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station (ISS). Discover how astronauts get to space, what the ISS is, what life is like on board and the challenges astronauts will face by carrying out your very own astronaut training!



## Homes for Wildlife Workshop

Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre and Cruickshank Botanic Gardens, University of Aberdeen

Tuesday 15 March, 10am - 12pm

Age: P4 - P7, maximum 25 pupils per session

FREE, contact Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre on 01224 274545 or [biodiversity@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:biodiversity@abdn.ac.uk)

Come along to our 'Homes for Wildlife' workshop at the Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre and find out what we can do to help wildlife in our gardens and why it is important. There will be a number of activities including making bug boxes, hedgehog homes and bird feeders. Afterwards, there will be a trip to Cruickshank Botanic Gardens which will include looking at examples of the best sites to place your wildlife homes and feeders.

## Aerodynamics - How does the shape of a vehicle affect the speed it will travel?

North East Scotland College  
Aberdeen City Campus (Gallowgate)

Tuesday 15 March 10am - 12pm and 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday 16 March 10am - 12pm

P7 - S4, maximum 30 pupils for combined planetarium/laboratory sessions and 15 for laboratory only. All groups must be accompanied by a member of school staff.

FREE, contact [douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk) T: 01224 612190

A laboratory workshop looking at the effect of aerodynamics on vehicle design. Pupils will construct models, and conduct tests in the physics laboratory to identify the designs with the best aerodynamic features. This workshop can also be combined with the College's Planetarium presentation. Duration is 1 hour for laboratory only, 2 hours for planetarium/laboratory.



The Aberdeen Branch of the British Science Association is delighted to bring you an array of hands-on activities for schools. Please contact the individual organisations in each listing to book. Further resource ideas and experiments including details of the British Science Association's 'Demo Day' on Wednesday 16 March are available online at [www.britishecienceweek.org](http://www.britishecienceweek.org)



## Bugs that go bang!

North East Scotland College  
Aberdeen City Campus (Gallowgate)

Tuesday 15 March 1pm – 3pm, Thursday 17 March 1pm – 3pm

P7 – S1, maximum 40 pupils for combined planetarium/laboratory sessions, 20 for laboratory only. All groups must be accompanied by a member of school staff.

FREE, contact [douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk) T: 01224 612190

Pupils will use established techniques to illustrate how bacteria are all around us and how they respond to their environment. They will also investigate how to kill bacterial cells by causing them to explode. This workshop can also be combined with the College's Planetarium presentation. Duration is 1 hour for laboratory only, 2 hours for planetarium/laboratory.

## The Earth, the stars and alien life



North East Scotland College  
– Aberdeen City Campus (Gallowgate)

Tuesday 15 March, Wednesday 16 March, Thursday 17 March,  
Friday 18 March, 10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm

P7 – S6, max 40 pupils for combined planetarium/laboratory sessions, 25 for planetarium only. The presentation is only suitable for persons comfortable with very low light conditions.

FREE, contact [douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk) T: 01224 612190

An enthralling presentation in the Aberdeen College Planetarium will give fascinating insights into Earth's place among the stars and the possibility of the existence of alien life. The presentation can also be combined with the laboratory activities on offer at the College. Duration is 1 hour for planetarium only, 2 hours for planetarium/laboratory.

## Gunge Chemistry

North East Scotland College  
– Aberdeen City Campus (Gallowgate)

Thursday 17 March 1pm – 3pm  
Friday 18 March 10am – 12pm

P7 – S3, maximum 40 pupils for combined planetarium/laboratory sessions, 20 for laboratory only. All groups must be accompanied by two members of school staff.

FREE, contact [douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk)  
T: 01224 612190

Pupils will produce glue from milk and test the effectiveness of the glue. They will then make fluorescent "slime" which they will be allowed to take away. This workshop can also be combined with the College's Planetarium presentation. Duration is 1 hour for laboratory only, 2 hours for planetarium/laboratory.



## Explosions and Implosions



North East Scotland College  
Aberdeen City Campus (Gallowgate)

Thursday 17 March 1pm – 3pm, Friday 18 March 10am – 12pm

P7 – S2, maximum 40 pupils for combined planetarium/laboratory sessions, 20 for laboratory only. All groups must be accompanied by two members of school staff.

Cost/booking details: FREE, contact [douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk)  
T: 01224 612190 to book.

A "fun" laboratory workshop where pupils will undertake a series of chemistry and physics related activities with explosive outcomes. This workshop can also be combined with the College's Planetarium presentation. Duration is 1 hour for laboratory only, 2 hours for planetarium/laboratory.

## Energy Saving Workshop

University of Aberdeen

Please contact Despina Yakoumi: [r01dy14@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:r01dy14@abdn.ac.uk),  
T: 07523 409204 to organise

Outreach for schools

Suitable for ages 12+

Participants will assume the role of an 'energy auditor' and assess the current situation of a selected room or section of their school or location to make a recommendation for energy-efficient improvements. This workshop will look at the use of electricity and heating while focusing on how to make the world around us more energy efficient.



## FRASERBURGH SCIENCE FAIR

North East Scotland College, [www.nescol.ac.uk](http://www.nescol.ac.uk), P7, S1 – S2

14 March 10.15am – 12.15pm or 1.15pm – 3.15pm, Free

Venue: Fraserburgh Campus, Henderson Road,  
Fraserburgh, AB43 9GA

Dr Leann Tait, Lecturer in Chemistry, North East Scotland College.

T: 01224 612191 E: [le.tait@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:le.tait@nescol.ac.uk)

Experience a day in the Broch and a whole host of science activities. Explore marine life, investigate aerodynamics and vehicle design, experience explosive and slimy chemistry, discover how bacteria respond to their environment, identify creepy crawlies using microscopes and journey to space! Up to 84 pupils. All groups must be accompanied by a minimum of two members of school staff.



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