British Science Festival Programme Announced

Reveals that science and society are strongly unified

The full programme for this year’s British Science Festival has been made public. With events as diverse as Sonic Kayaking in Swansea Bay to the critically acclaimed Science(ish) Live podcast with Channel 4’s Rick Edwards - there is something for everyone.

The Festival, hosted by Swansea University, will take place from Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 September, followed by a Family Weekend on 10 – 11 September.

Tens of thousands of visitors will see hundreds of leading scientists come together to showcase the latest scientific advancements from around the world. The varied programme of free talks, debates and performances will allow guests to immerse themselves in accessible, cutting-edge and impactful research.

The diversity of the programme reveals that science is not restricted to lab coats; anybody can be a part of it.

Highlights include:

• **The 1848 Swansea British Science Festival**

  Swansea first hosted the Festival all the way back in 1848. Learn what science and the city were like 168 years ago

• **Beach Party!**

  Join us on Friday evening to close the Festival with a celebratory beach party. Expect fireworks and live performers!

• **Pardon my French!**

  Can swearing be cathartic? This discussion will find out

• **9/11: 15 years on**
Honour the anniversary and discover how the world has changed since 9/11

- **The fight for the beautiful game** (with Mark Doidge and Alan Lewis from the Swansea City Supporters' Trust)

How has football developed into a corporate business and what role do fans play in challenging it?

- **The Story Collider: an evening of personal stories with a science twist**

Hear five story tellers share their exciting tales of how science has touched their lives

Ivvet Modinou, Head of Engagement at the British Science Association, said: "We are incredibly excited to be bringing the British Science Festival to Swansea this year. The response from all of the academics and staff at the University has been fantastic, and we would not have been able to produce such a diverse and cutting-edge programme without them."

Immediately following the Festival there will be a Family Weekend at Swansea's Waterfront Museum. This will take place on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September, featuring an array of activities, workshops and hands-on family fun.

Hilary Lappin-Scott, Pro-Vice Chancellor at Swansea University, said: "This festival will put the spotlight on Swansea University – and we will not only be showcasing exciting news on cutting edge research but we will be warmly welcoming everyone to be part of it. We will celebrate science on the campuses, in the city and on the beach – and we want everyone to come along and show that science is not just for academics but is for all."

'As one small taster of the exciting events throughout the festival week, visitors can follow a real time building construction to completion. This evolving and interactive exhibit made by the SPECIFIC project will represent a new concept for buildings of the future. Known as "Buildings as Power Stations" they can deliver a transformation in the world of energy in the built environment - buildings that generate, store and release their own energy; buildings that are affordable without compromising quality; building that are engineered to deliver low carbon at low cost."

The full programme can be seen here: [www.britishsciencefestival.org](http://www.britishsciencefestival.org)

The Festival will take place from 6-9 September in Swansea, and provides an opportunity to meet researchers face-to-face and discuss the latest science, technology and engineering.

Space for some events is limited, so **book now** to reserve your place at [www.britishsciencefestival.org](http://www.britishsciencefestival.org)
Notes to editors

1. Event Highlight Details

• **Sonic Kayaking in Swansea Bay**

  The Sonic Kayak is a musical instrument with which to investigate nature. Kayaks rigged with underwater environmental sensors generate live music from the marine world. Attendees will join us on the beach and have a go playing this most unique instrument.

• **Science(ish) Live**

  *Rick Edwards* and the *Dr Michael Brooks* bring their critically acclaimed podcast Science(ish) to the British Science Festival. Recording a brand new episode in front of your very eyes, they’ll pick apart popular pieces of fiction to explore whether there is any truth in the tale.

• **The 1848 Swansea British Science Festival**

  The British Science Festival has been to Swansea four times - the first was in 1848. What was Swansea like? What drew the Festival to Swansea in 1848? And what was the Festival like? *John Tucker* and *Gerald Gabb* takes us back to the science, scientists and town of 1848.

• **Beach Party**

  To celebrate the Festival there will be a beach party all evening on Friday 9 September, including a fireworks display and live performers throughout the evening.

• **Pardon my French!**

  Does swearing really have a cathartic effect? And is this effect increased when swearing in your native language? Join an interdisciplinary panel of experts including a psychologist, a historian and a philosopher to discuss the social history of swearing and the effects that taboo language can have on our brains, bodies and social interactions.
• 9/11: 15 years on

With the anniversary of the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon looming, Lella Nouri-Bennett reflects on how the world has changed since 9/11 in terms of politics, security efforts and our understanding of terrorism in the UK.

• The fight for the beautiful game

Join an expert panel, including sociologist Mark Doidge and Alan Lewis from the Swansea City Supporters’ Trust, to explore the development of football into a corporate business and the important role fans have played in challenging this.

• The Story Collider: an evening of personal stories with a science twist

Join us for an evening of true, personal stories with a science twist. Five storytellers plucked from the Festival line up will share their exciting tales of how science has touched their lives. Some stories are heart-breaking; some are hilarious; they’re all true and, in one way or another, they’re all about science.

1. About the British Science Festival

The British Science Festival is one of Europe’s largest science festivals and regularly attracts hundreds of the UK’s top scientists and speakers to discuss the latest developments in science with the public. Over 10,000 visitors attend the talks, discussions and workshops. Registration is free for journalists, and gets you access to hundreds of events. The Festival takes place at a different location each year and was last held in Swansea in 1990. The 2016 Festival will take place from 6 – 9 September hosted by Swansea University. The headline sponsor is Siemens. For further information, visit www.britishsciencefestival.org @BritishSciFest #BSF16

2. About Swansea University

Swansea University is a world-class, research-led, dual campus university. The University was established in 1920 and was the first campus university in the UK. It currently offers around 330 undergraduate courses and 120 post-graduate courses to 16,800 undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The University’s 46-acre Singleton Park Campus, established in 1920, is located in beautiful parkland with views across Swansea Bay. The University’s 65-acre science and innovation Bay Campus, which opened in September 2015, is located a few miles away on the eastern approach to the city. It has the distinction of having direct access to a beach and its own seafront promenade. Both campuses are close to the Gower Peninsula, the UK’s first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
The results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 showed the University has achieved its ambition to be a top 30 research University, soaring up the league table to 26th in the UK, with the ‘biggest leap among research-intensive institutions’ (*Times Higher Education, December 2014*) in the UK.

The University has ambitious expansion plans as it moves towards its centenary in 2020, as it continues to extend its global reach and moves closer to realising its ambition of being a top 200 Global University.

Swansea University is a registered charity. No.1138342. Visit [www.swansea.ac.uk](http://www.swansea.ac.uk).

3. About Siemens

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 170 years ago and now employs over 14,000 people in the UK. Last year’s revenues were £5 billion. As the world’s largest engineering company, Siemens provides innovative solutions to help tackle the world’s major challenges across the key sectors of energy, industry, infrastructure & cities and healthcare. Siemens has offices and factories throughout the UK, with its headquarters in Frimley, Surrey. The company’s global headquarters is in Munich, Germany. For more information, visit [www.siemens.com](http://www.siemens.com).

4. About the British Science Association

The British Science Association (BSA) believes that science should be part of – rather than set apart from – society and culture, and is owned by the wider community. Our programmes encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with science, become ambassadors for science, and ultimately to be empowered to challenge and influence British science - whether they work in science or not.

Established in 1831, the BSA is a registered charity that organises major initiatives across the UK, including British Science Week, the annual British Science Festival, regional and local events, the CREST Awards and other programmes for young people in schools and colleges.

The BSA also organises specific activities for professional science communicators, including a specialist conference and training. For more information, please visit [www.britishscienceassociation.org](http://www.britishscienceassociation.org).