British Science Festival heads for Brighton in 2017

British Science Association announces dates and location of next year’s Festival

The British Science Association (BSA) is pleased to announce that the British Science Festival 2017 will take place in Brighton. The University of Brighton and the University of Sussex will co-host the Festival, which will run from 5 – 9 September. The annual event is one of Europe’s leading and longest-established science festivals.

Ivvet Modinou, Head of Engagement at the British Science Association, said: “We are delighted to bring the British Science Festival to Brighton next year. It will be different from the previous Festivals we have run, in that it is being co-hosted by two amazing universities and will take place in venues all over the city over the course of five days.

“As with our 2016 hosts, Swansea, we will be right next to the beach, which will add an extra element for programming and creating some unique experiences for our visitors.”

There will be over 100 events, specially curated by the BSA in partnership with the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex. Visitors should expect to find talks, debates, workshops and performances about cutting-edge science from world-leading academics. Topics will cover the whole scientific spectrum including technology, engineering and social sciences.

Professor Debra Humphris, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton said: “I am delighted that the University of Brighton will be co-hosting the British Science Festival next year. We were keen to grasp this wonderful opportunity to showcase our world-leading research alongside cutting-edge science from around the globe in an accessible and engaging way. The city of Brighton & Hove is world-renowned for its Art Festival. By hosting the British Science Festival, we can throw open the doors of our facilities to the wider community, including our new state-of-the-art Advanced Engineering Building that is currently under construction.”

Professor Michael Davies, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Sussex, said: “We are thrilled to welcome the festival back to our city. Many staff still connected to the University of Sussex remember fondly the impact of the event when we hosted it back in 1983. The ethos of scientific teaching, learning and research at Sussex hasn’t changed since then – we are as passionate today about
cutting-edge innovation that spans across the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines to address themes, such as neuroscience, digital humanities and sustainability. Collaboration sits at the heart of our approach to scientific discovery and impact through combining disciplines, working with a wide range of partners and most importantly engaging and encouraging brilliant minds to be involved. We look forward to a fantastic festival in September 2017.”

First held (as the inaugural and then annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science) in 1831, the Festival has been the stage for many iconic moments in history — such as the famous debate on Darwin’s then controversial theory of evolution between Thomas Huxley and the Bishop of Oxford in 1860. It also saw the first use of the word ‘scientist,’ in 1834. The annual meeting has been previously held in Brighton on three occasions: 1872; 1948; and 1983.

The British Science Festival 2017, hosted by the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex, will take place between Tuesday 5 and Saturday 9 September and will feature a diverse programme of talk, debates, performances and activities.

For more information about the British Science Festival, please visit: http://www.britishscienceassociation.org/british-science-festival

To book tickets for this year’s Festival (6–9 September) and Family Weekend (10–11 September 2016), hosted by Swansea University, please visit: www.britishsciencefestival.org

Ends/..

ENDS

For media enquiries, please contact:
Jessica Rowley, PR Officer, British Science Association
T: +44 (0) 20 7019 4953 | E: jessica.rowley@britishscienceassociation.org

Notes for editors

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 Brighton in 1983. The 2017 Festival will take place from 5 – 9 September hosted by the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex.

For further information, visit www.britishsciencefestival.org @BritishSciFest #BSF17
2. 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

3. About the University of Brighton

With over 20,700 students studying across five campuses in Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings the University has a major presence in Brighton and Hove and more widely across Sussex.

The University’s wide-ranging research has been assessed as world-leading in a number of areas, including Computer Sciences and Informatics and Sports and Exercise Science and as internationally excellent in the areas of Engineering and Earth Sciences.

In addition to its internationally renowned teaching, practice and research in the arts and design it is also one of the UK’s leading teacher training universities and a major Higher Education provider for healthcare and engineering professions.

In partnership with the University of Sussex and local NHS the University of Brighton supports the Brighton and Sussex Medical School which is rated by students as the best in the UK.

4. About the University of Sussex

The University of Sussex is a leading higher education and research institution near Brighton, in the south of England with approximately 14,000 students, of which over a third are postgraduates. Creative thinking, pedagogic diversity, intellectual challenge and interdisciplinarity have always been fundamental to a Sussex education.

The University delivers teaching and learning programmes that are informed by current research, are attractive to students from all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, and which deliver skills for life. Sussex is a leading research university, as reflected in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Over 75 per cent of research activity at Sussex is categorised as world leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3*) in terms of originality, significance and rigour.