



Inspirational Science

Dunbar SciFest 2014 – press release

The award winning Dunbar SciFest is back for 2014! The fourth amazing community science festival for families in Edinburgh, the Lothians, Borders and beyond will take place during National Science & Engineering Week, March 2014.

Dunbar SciFest has become one of Scotland's leading science festivals and has proved so popular that it's expanding from a seven day to an eleven day event. Dunbar SciFest, organised by a team of 10 dedicated volunteers, has grown from a Sunday afternoon event in 2011. As usual, it will take place in Dunbar Primary School's John Muir Campus and Dunbar's Bleachingfield Community Centre, next to the school.

Building upon the phenomenal success of last year's event, where an extraordinary mix of 53 event providers delivered 93 different events (243 activities) over 7 days to 6,800 visitors, this year's 11 day programme features new stage shows, workshops, drop-in sessions and Adult Programme evening events.

Dunbar SciFest was originally the brain child of Dee Davison, Marine Biologist and deaf Polymer Chemist, Dr Audrey Cameron, back in 2011. Since then, this community science festival has won national awards and generated interest from around the country. Dee is now Head of Creative and Programming with Edinburgh International Science Festival – the world's first science festival and about to deliver its 26th festival in Edinburgh during the Easter holiday fortnight www.sciencefestival.co.uk. Audrey has created new signs for physics and engineering terms and recently, working with the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, has created new signs to help explain our Solar System in sign language.

<http://news.stv.tv/east-central/217763-scotlands-first-deaf-doctor-audrey-cameron-at-dunbar-scifest/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-26066547>

Awards

Last year, Dunbar SciFest 2013 was awarded '*Outstanding Contribution to National Science & Engineering Week 2013*' by British Science Association. Dunbar PS Parent Council won the '*Parents as Partners in Learning*' Award, with Dunbar SciFest cited as a significant achievement, in the Scottish Education 2013 Awards (Education Scotland, Smarter Scotland & Daily Record). Dunbar SciFest 2012 was awarded the "*Best Community Event*" Award by the National Science & Engineering Week (NSEW) 2012.

Dunbar Book Clubs, The Reading Experiment and 2014 Adult Programme of Evening Events

So what's happening this year? In the last few weeks, Dunbar Book Clubs have been reading the science-themed book "*State of Wonder*" by Anne Patchett. Their discussion sessions are being facilitated by Sarah Keer Keer, from the University of Edinburgh Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology and Midlothian Science Festival and the scientists that join these discussions really bring science to life.

This year, Dunbar SciFest is collaborating with the Edinburgh International Science Festival and the Midlothian Science Festival on a new project called *The Reading Experiment*, supported by funding from Homecoming Scotland <http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/whats-on/the-reading-experiment>. This project aims to encourage people to immerse themselves in the world of science writing in all its richly diverse forms with our exciting new initiative. Celebrating the spaces where the worlds of science and words collide, and acknowledging the power of each, *The Reading Experiment* will encourage us all to engage anew with science writing of all sorts – from popular science to poetry, literacy fiction to sci-fi. We're sharing inspirational [reading lists](#) and [recommendations](#) from scientists and science-enthused celebrities. *The Reading Experiment* is running a 'Sci-Ku' competition - can you capture a science inspired theory or idea in 3 short lines? Remember to choose your words carefully!

For Dunbar SciFest, our Adult Programme of 6 evening events has been developed (Thursday 13 - Sunday 16 & Saturday 22 March) with new partnerships with CoastWord, www.CoastWord.co.uk and supported by funding from Homecoming Scotland. Four entertaining and stimulatingly diverse events have already taken



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place, including a Café Scientifique; a Crime Writers discussion on how recent technological development in publishing have changed the world for readers and authors; an event describing how creating stories based on academic research has brought out real people's voices from the factual data, as well as an evening of discussion and readings inspired by the Natural World.

The Dunbar SciFest Adult Programme will culminate on Saturday 22 March, with 2 inspiring events. **Gerry Hughes** will describe his epic and inspirational adventures as the first deaf yachtsman to complete a round the world voyage via the Five Great Capes. **Grown Up Fun @ SCI-FUN** is everyone's chance to come and play... without your children! Have a great night out and play with your friends. Feel free to be silly as you enjoy an exciting range of over 50 interactive science activities including controlling lightning; seeing a hole in your hand; solving a crime; making a human electric circuit; "relaxing" in the ever-popular spinning chair; and many, many more! Be amused by some stand-up comedy. Be entertained by live music and Rock the Lab - the Edinburgh International Science Festival's grown up version of their Busking Bike!

Molecule Hunt and the Dunbar Traders Association

Once again, we are delighted that the Dunbar Traders Association is hosting the Dunbar Molecule Hunt 2014, with 17 local businesses participating. This innovative project has proved to be a great way of involving the local business community and children and families really enjoyed this activity since the February mid-term holiday. The Dunbar Traders Association are taking part in Dunbar SciFest for the first time this year, showcasing local businesses that visitors from outwith East Lothian can visit.

EDF Education Programme

Helen Gillanders, Head Teacher of Dunbar Primary School, is very excited about working with Dunbar SciFest again. She said: "Thanks to the hard work Dee and the rest of the SciFest team and the generous sponsorship of EDF and the Scottish Government, Dunbar PS is proud to be hosting the Dunbar SciFest 2014 EDF Energy Education Programme. Generation Science, the education outreach programme of Edinburgh International Science Festival will be providing educational 31 workshops (6 age specific themes) to over 1,500 pupils from the 5 Dunbar clusters schools between Monday 17 to Thursday 21 March. On Friday 21 March, an additional 1,200 pupils and 50 teachers will enjoy 4 Friday morning stage shows delivered by Mr Boom and Fly Agaric.

Viridor Stage Shows - interpreted in British Sign Language

During the Dunbar SciFest 2014 Weekend, the Viridor Stage Shows include new stage shows "The Fantastic Physics Fire Show!", which features viridor flames, bangs and spectacular surprises ([facebook.co/flyagaricperformingarts](https://www.facebook.com/flyagaricperformingarts)) and the perennial favourite "Mr Boom" the children's one-man band – who'll arrive from the Moon in his spaceship Imagination and take the audience on an amazing adventure through time and space. Stage shows will also be provided by:

- Scottish Seabird Centre: Professor Egghead's Super Seabirds!
- Science Shows in British Sign Language

Audrey is delighted that: "Our shows on the Viridor Stage will be interpreted in British Sign Language. The interpreters will be available all weekend to accompany deaf children to a workshop or show. We are so pleased that increasing numbers of deaf people are coming to Dunbar SciFest".

For teenagers we have 2 shows specially created for 13+: "*Zombie Science: Worst Case Scenario*" and "*Zombie Science: Brain of the Dead*" where you can discover how a Zombie brain works in this spoof lecture featuring interactive demonstrations and a multi-media presentation. Dee says "This is the science you really need to know to survive the inevitable Zombie apocalypse!"

The Under Fives Zone is located within "The Cove", where toddlers can enjoy the soft play area, enclosed garden and storytelling sessions provide by four local professional storytellers.



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Community Windpower Marquee

Community Windpower are once again supporting the drop in sessions within the CWL Marquee, and will have their own stall there, alongside Be Green Dunbar and Sustaining Dunbar.

This year the marquee will include a suitably coastal marine theme, with the hugely popular marine touch tanks provided by Heriot Watt University and Royal Haskoning Environmental Consultants, allowing everyone to get wet while handling sea urchins, star fish, crab and other fascinating marine life. They will be alongside the Marine Conservation Society and Ocean Science Consultancy, an international marine mammal consultancy based in Dunbar.

Another department from Heriot Watt University, the Institute of Biological Chemistry, Biophysics and Bioengineering is running a drop in sessions called “*From deep sea to deep space: the technologies revolutionising biological and medical imaging*”, revealing how bioluminescent marine organisms have revolutionised biological microscopy by providing a means to directly observe the details of how cells work, interact and function.

There will also be diverse drop in sessions within the 2 main halls, including controlling robots, creating computer programming, building a body and testing your fitness, making molecule models, exploring electricity, investigating archaeo-science and crystal chemistry and exploring the microscopic world!

Community Windpower Workshops

This year, Community Windpower is also supporting the CWL Workshops. In addition to the ever popular Charles River Kitchen Chemistry workshops, Computer Xplorer workshops and the delightfully gruesome organ dissection workshops, five new workshops will be on offer this year <http://dunbarscifest.org.uk/workshops>. For dinosaur fans, Dynamic Earth and the East Lothian Museum Service will be offering workshops all about dinosaurs. If you love space, you'll want to attend Royal Observatory Edinburgh's *Wonders of our Solar System* workshop and Think Science's Planetarium.

Bleachingfield Community Centre- SCI-FUN exhibition

SCI-FUN, the University of Edinburgh's Scottish Science and Technology Roadshow will take over the Bleachingfield Community Centre with 50 interactive science activities, including controlling lightning; seeing a hole in your hand; solving a crime; making a human electric circuit; "relaxing" in the ever-popular spinning chair; and many, many more that will keep families entertained for hours.

Early Bird event

SCI-FUN will be opening its doors early on Sunday 23rd March (9am - 10am), to allow children with Autism Spectrum Condition and their families to experience the interactive exhibits in relative peace. There are lots of visual and tactile science displays to learn from in a fun way. The SCI-FUN team and volunteers from Steps to Inclusion will provide specialised assistance. Steps to Inclusion have also put together a Visual Story to help prepare the children for their visit.

Dunbar SciFest Café and how we feed an army of volunteers

A café will operate over the whole SciFest weekend, provided by the Garden Path Café for Lauderdale Park, Dunbar and the Bleachingfield Café will be open. SciFest volunteers will provide ~ 240 free lunches for the Event Providers who generously donate their time, expertise and equipment. Asda is generously providing hot drinks, water and snacks to these volunteers and the small army of other volunteers whose hard work ensures that this festival runs smoothly.



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Funding

Dunbar SciFest 2014 has received funding from the Scottish Government, East Lothian Council, EDF Energy, Community Windpower Ltd, Viridor, Dunbar Community Council, Homecoming Scotland, the University of Edinburgh, Asda, and Dunbar PS Parent Council.

ELC Signature Event Funding

Signature Event Funding has recently been made available by East Lothian Council to enable the Dunbar SciFest to plan for its future by undertaking a detailed evaluation of the 2014 festival, assessing the wider economic impact of the festival and creating a business plan to map the future of the event to 2017

The Dunbar SciFest 2014 Weekend will take place on **Saturday 22** and **Sunday 23 March 2013** (10am - 5pm both days) in the John Muir Campus of Dunbar Primary School and the new Bleachingfield Community Centre, with cafes in both venues. Prices have kept the same as 2012 so all activities in the school will be charged at £10 for a family (2 adults and up to 5 children from the same family), £15 for a family weekend ticket or £3 for an adult and £2 for a child. SCI-FUN and Dunbar Library events at the Bleachingfield Community Centre are free.

FACTS FROM DUNBAR SCIFEST 2013

53 organisations provided 93 different events, equating to 243 individual activities, over the 7 days, including science stage shows, workshops, drop-in sessions, talks, storytelling and evening events. The 194 individual science communicators/presenters came to Dunbar SciFest to entertain, educate and thrill the crowds, with the majority (168) providing their expert services free gratis. Many of the event providers are parents who are scientists working locally and in Edinburgh. We paid 24 professional science performers but the rest generously volunteered their time.

Over the SciFest 2013 weekend, 76 parent volunteers and 29 Dunbar Grammar School pupils ensured that the event ran smoothly.

Our weekend visitors included a high proportion from the Deaf Community as all stage shows and talks were delivered in British Sign Language/English.

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