

# NI SCIENCE FESTIVAL

**12-23 FEBRUARY 2025** 



#### **FESTIVAL FUNDERS**





























#### **FESTIVAL PARTNER**























































**DUMBWORLD** 







NORTH WEST AND EDUCATION PARTNER

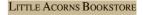


**MEDIA PARTNER** 



BOOK SELLER PARTNERS





#### **DIRECTORS WELCOME**

Welcome to the 11th NI Science Festival, a celebration of curiosity and discovery. Despite financial challenges faced globally and locally, this festival shines as a beacon of inspiration, showcasing how science offers solutions to today's pressing issues—from tackling climate change to advancing healthcare and technology.

This year's programme features a wealth of engaging events for all ages. Nature enthusiasts can join **Steve Backshall**, the renowned wildlife presenter, for an unforgettable journey into the natural world. For those with a passion for the cosmos, **Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock**, will captivate with her insights into the universe. Looking for something fun and quirky? Don't miss the **Late Late Love Lab**, as we take over the Ulster Museum on Valentine's night.

We've worked hard to ensure the festival remains accessible, offering a wide range of free and affordable events such as the Foyle Science Showcase and open days at Queen's and Ulster Universities. From interactive workshops and talks to family-friendly activities, the programme promises to inspire minds and ignite imaginations across Northern Ireland.

Let's celebrate the joy of learning, the power of ideas, and the endless possibilities that science brings to our lives. Thank you for being part of this journey—together, we'll explore a brighter, more sustainable future.





#### **MINISTERS WELCOME**

I am delighted that my Department is continuing its longstanding support of the Festival. Skills development is at the heart of my economic plans – withSTEM skills in particular becoming ever more vital in our fast-changing society – and every year the Festival engages tens of thousands of people across the north, stimulating interest in learning at all ages and raising awareness of the vast world of STEM.

**Economy Minister Conor Murphy MLA** 









#### FESTIVAL TEAM

**Director - Sarah Jones** 

Creative Producer - Jillian Thompson

Marketing Manager - Andrew Moore

Events & Project Officer - Stephanie Garner

Education Manager (Nerve Centre) - Joe Carlin

Festival Coordinator - Richard Davis

Accounts Officer - Kathy Young

**Project Coordinator (Nerve Centre) -** Gareth Doherty

**Communication & PR -** Orry Robinson & Aimee Moore (JComms)

**Design - Jeffers & Sons** 

Marketing Assistant - ChatGPT

#### FESTIVAL BOARD

- Victoria Simms (Chair)
- Bill Connor
- Claire Burgoyne
- Tony Byrne
- Judith Harvey
- Jonathan Wallace
- Donna Rodgers
- Simon Bailie
- Cailín Lynn

# GENERAL ENQUIRIES

NI Science Festival The Crescents Arts, 2-4 University Road, Belfast, Antrim, BT7 1NH

028 9162 9204

Box Office: 028 9024 6609 info@nisciencefestival.com

Charity No. NIC100332

Facebook @niscifest Instagram @niscifest

#### BOOKING INFORMATION

All events taking place at NISF can be booked online through the Festival website at www.nisciencefestival.com

Suitability, admission and booking information are indicated in the listings.

Most of our events do occur a booking fee with the option to donate to the Festival (Charity No. NIC100332), which will go a long way to supporting future editions of NISF.

All children must be accompanied by an adult

# CONCESSION RATES

Concession rates apply on selected events, where listed, to those aged 16 and under, over 60s, students, the unemployed, and disabled persons unless otherwise stated. Proof of status may be required

Please note that not all events have concession rates.

#### **ACCESS**

All partnering venues aim to be as accessible as possible however a small number have restricted access. Should you or your group require information or assistance please contact us.

If you require assistance to enable your visit to the event, a complimentary ticket for a carer/companion is available - please phone our box office number 028 9024 6609

#### PROGRAMME CHANGES

Please note that all events listed in this printed brochure are subject to change. Be sure to check our website or social media platforms for the most up to date information.





We invite adventure lovers from across the country to experience our exclusive Nature Lover getaways all set in the beautiful natural landscapes of Northern Ireland. Experiences revolve around the four elements: Air, Fire, Water, and Earth. Look out for the symbol above throughout the programme.

# WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY



# CHEMISTRY & THE CELTS

**NISF ROADSHOW** 

SPACE THEATRE BANGOR.

NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY CINEMA,

THE ALLEY THEATRE STRABANE, ROE VALLEY ARTS CENTRE, LIMAVADY

WED 12 - SAT 15 FEBRUARY 3:00PM

£7

Step into the Iron Age with Scientific Sue and explore the world of the Irish Celts! Discover how the Celts extracted iron, forged tools, and created coins. Through the wonders of chemistry, ancient metalworking methods come to life, revealing the indenuity of Ireland's past.

7+ & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION









#### PICK UP A PEBBLE, FIND A FOSSIL

WHITEPARK BAY, BALLYCASTLE WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY

11:00AM - 1:00PM

FREE

Join us for a family-friendly fossil hunt! Discover ancient creatures and Ireland's only dinosaur bones with Dr. Mike Simms from National Museums NI. Meet us in the car park and explore fossils, old rocks, and tales from prehistoric times.

#### 5+ & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### PROFESSOR LUKEY LUKE'S BRAIN GYM

FOYLESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE, DERRY~LONDONDERRY

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY

11:00AM

FREE

Explore a series of fun physical exercises that challenge our brain and body connection. The challenges work on motor skills, spacial awareness and help to keep the brain active through engaging and creative play.

**ALL AGES** 

MIND + BODY



# THE ANIMAL BODY BOOK

THE CRESCENT, BELFAST WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 11:00AM

£7/5

Children's author and vet Dr Jess French will explore how animal bodies work, and the amazing things they can do. From a whale's enormous heart and an owl's sensitive ears, to a tortoise's tough shell and an insect's unusual eyes, explore animal adaptations in close detail

7-11 & PARENTS/GUARDIANS



# STONEY BEGINNINGS

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND, BELFAST WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 1:00PM

#### FREE

Explore prehistoric axe heads and the geology and archaeology of Co. Antrim in a talk by lan Enlander (Belfast Geologists' Society). Discover how porcellanite formations at Tievebulliagh and Brockley were used in the Neolithic period, and view a collection of Irish stone axes.

#### 14+

HISTORY + SOCIETY



# THE ETHICS OF AI NAVIGATING THE FUTURE

THE CRESCENT ARTS, BELFAST WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

#### £5

Join Dr. Charlotte Blease, health informaticist, Holly Toner (Data & Al Ethics Tech Lead, Kainos), and Nell Watson for an engaging discussion on the ethical challenges of artificial intelligence. Explore how Al impacts society and decision-making.

#### 14+

TECH + INNOVATION



# AXON POWER & CONTROL FACTORY TOUR

**DUNGANNON BUSINESS PARK, CO. TYRONE** 

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY

#### £1

Welcome to Axon Power & Control's facility! Guests will explore the 25,000 sq. ft. space where the team designs, manufactures, and install Electrical Control Systems for industries such as OEM, Automotive. and Food Production.

#### ALL ACES

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 

#### LOOK CLOSER (SCREENINGS & WORKSHOPS)

#### **NISF ROADSHOW**

SPACE THEATRE BANGOR, NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY CINEMA, THE ALLEY THEATRE STRABANE,

ROE VALLEY ARTS CENTRE, LIMAVADY WED 12 - SAT 15 FEBRUARY

11:00AM - 12:00PM

#### £4

Come on an exciting adventure as the Regional Roadshow Team presents "Look Closer and Discover Nature!" Little ones are invited to enjoy five episodes of BBC/CBeebies Tiny Wonders on the BIG screen. But the fun doesn't stop there—our Mini Lab Zones, led by scientists from the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences at Queen's University Belfast, offer hands-on exploration.

**3-5+ & PARENTS/GUARDIANS** 





# PEATLANDS IN ACTION

RESTORING NATURE,
PROTECTING THE FUTURE

186 BARONY ROAD, CREGGAN, OMAGH, TYRONE, BT79 9AB

WED 12 & FRI 14 FEBRUARY 10:00AM & 2:00PM

FREE

Join An Creagán's Peatland Officer for an interactive talk, demonstration, and guided walk on peatland restoration. Discover the importance of peatlands in biodiversity, climate regulation, and carbon storage. This family-friendly event explores the unique ecosystems of Sperrins bogs, highlighting their vital role in protecting wildlife and combating climate change.

**ALL AGES** 

ENIVIDONIMENIT + NATI IDE

#### BONE, BLOOD, BIRTH AND BRAINS:

THE LIFE OF A VICTORIAN SURGEON IN BELFAST

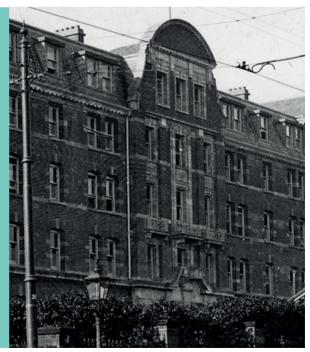
THE SUNFLOWER, BELFAST
WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY
7.30PM

FREE

Step into Victorian Belfast's medical past! Join Dr. Rebecca Watterson, Dr. Ian Miller, and Hannah Brown as they showcase amputation knives, trephining tools, and more. Discover how people faced illness, infection, and death in a time of limited cures and hygiene.

18+

MIND + BODY



#### **EOGHAN DALTUN**

THE MAGIC OF AN IRISH RAINFOREST

AN DROICHEAD, BELFAST

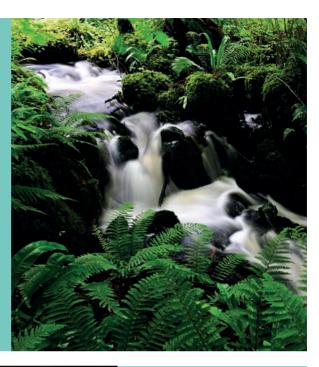
WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

£8 / £6 CONCESSION

Eoghan Daltun, author of The Magic of an Irish Atlantic Rainforest, shares breathtaking photographs and compelling insights from his journey through Ireland's temperate rainforests. Discover their ecological beauty, fragile decline, and the urgent need to protect these priceless natural wonders.

14+

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE





# THE SCIENCE OF MENOPAUSE:

UNDERSTAND YOUR BODY, MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES

SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 8:00PM

£Q

GP and women's health expert Dr Philippa Kaye discusses questions on the menopause, including symptoms, lifestyle choices, and treatment. Discover how our brains change, why the perimenopause doesn't mean an end to great sex, and the treatment options that can help, including HRT, vaginal oestrogen, and non-hormonal options.

144

MIND + RODY

# WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY

Peatlands in Action: Restoring Nature, Protecting the Future	10AM & 2PM	Omagh
Axon Power & Control Factory Tour	10AM	Tyrone
Pick Up a Pebble, Find a Fossil	11AM	Ballycastle
Professor Lukey Luke's Brain Gym	11AM	Derry / Londonderry
Look Closer   NISF Roadshow	ПАМ	Bangor
The Animal Body Book with Jess French	ПАМ	Belfast
Stoney Beginnings	1РМ	Belfast
Chemistry & the Celts NISF Roadshow	3РМ	Bangor
The Ethics of AI - Navigating the Future	7РМ	Belfast
Eoghan Daltun: The Magic of an Irish Rainforest	<b>7</b> PM	Belfast
Bone, Blood, Birth and Brains: The Life of a Victorian Surgeon in Belfast	7:30PM	Belfast
The Science of Menopause: Understand Your Body, Make the Right Choices	8PM	Belfast









# THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY





#### MANNOK FACTORY TOUR

MANNOK, DERRYLIN THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 9:30AM - 12:00PM

#### FREE

Join Mannok for an exclusive factory tour showcasing the precision and innovation behind their premium building materials. Discover state-of-theart manufacturing processes for high-performance insulation, thermal blocks, cement, roof tiles, and precast concrete products.

#### 10+

ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS



# INNOVATION IN ACTION

AN ENGINEERING RESEARCH SHOWCASE

ASHBY BUILDING, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY** 

9:30AM - 3:30PM

#### **FREE**

Experience innovative research and world-class facilities at the QUB School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (SMAE) Research Showcase through presentations, interactive displays, and tours.

#### 144

ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS



#### FUNGI FUN/ SPRAOI NA MBEACÁN

AN DROICHEAD, BELFAST THURS 13 & FRI 14 FEBRUARY 11:00AM

#### £6

Explore the enchanting world of mushrooms in this family-friendly workshop! Enjoy art, games, and storytelling while discovering fungi's hidden wonders. Create mushroom prints and gain a new appreciation for the underground world.

6-14+ & Parents/Guardians

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE

## LOVE IS IN THE

OAKFIRE ADVENTURES, DERRY~LONDONDERRY THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 10:00AM - 2:00PM

#### £25

This Valentine's Day, take your love to new heights with our Zip Trekking Experience! Imagine soaring side by side through a lush canopy of trees, with breathtaking views over the beautiful Faughan Valley below. For couples who share a passion for adventure and the outdoors, there's no better way to celebrate than gliding along thrilling zip lines, each ride faster and longer than the last. Experience the rush together in nature's embrace, creating unforgettable memories among the treetops.

10+





#### RETRO GAME DESIGN

AMMA CENTRE, ARMAGH THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 10:00AM

#### FREE

In this MakeCode Arcade workshop, young people will create an 8-bit video game! They'll design a spaceship, code its movements, and navigate through an asteroid field. Using beginner-friendly block coding, participants will learn game development basics and unleash their creativity.

#### 10-14

TECH + INNOVATION



#### SYNTH HACKATHON 2025

SONIC ARTS RESEARCH CENTRE, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

THURS 13 - SUN 16 FEBRUARY

10:00AM - 5:00PM

#### FREE

Join a hands-on, four-day workshop with Belfast's Noise Guaranteed, where you'll designand build unique sound experiences using cutting-edge tech like 3D printers and CNC machines.

Supported by Synthux Academy.

#### 18+

TECH + INNOVATION



# THE ULTIMATE BUBBLE SHOW

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM THURS 13 - SAT 15 FEBRUARY 10:15 AM, 11:30AM, 12:45PM, 2:00PM, 3:15PM

#### £10

Experience the magic of bubble artistry with Paris Bubbles! This fun-filled performance, perfect for all ages, features mesmerising bubble tricks—including the elusive 'square bubble.' Watch as sharp objects, fire, and playful children challenge these experts. Expect stunning showmanship, audience interaction, and an unforgettable spectacle for everyone!

#### **ALL AGES**

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



# DISCOVER HISTORY AND MYTH THROUGH WIMMELBILDERS

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, BELFAST

**THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY** 

10:30AM & 12:00PM

#### **FREE**

Explore the history and myths of Northern Ireland's historic buildings through a hands-on drawing workshop with artist Laura McKenzie Atkins.

#### 16+

HISTORY + SOCIETY



#### SCIENCE OF CINEMA

THE STRAND @ CONNSWATER SHOPPING CENTRE, BELFAST

THURSDAY 13 & 14 FEBRUARY

#### 11:00AM

#### **FREE**

Learn about the science and history of cinema with this family friendly workshop. Have a go at creating animations using techniques from early cinema! Make your own zoetrope and thaumatrope!

3-10+ & Parents/Guardians

ART + SCIENCE



# **EXTINCTION EXPLORERS**

ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST THURS 13 & FRI 14 FEBRUARY 2:00PM

#### **FREE**

Join us for a family friendly tour of the nature galleries at the Ulster Museum. We'll travel through time and search for signs of species long extinct, then track animals that still exist in the wild and create our own species to take home.

#### **ALL AGES**



# POX, PLAGUES & PAUPERS:

HORRIBLE HISTORIES OF BELFAST

BELFAST CITY HOSPITAL (GATE C) - MEETING POINT

THURS 13 & SUN 16 FEBRUARY 2:00PM

£15

Explore 19th-century Belfast's struggles with disease, poverty, and body-snatching on this tour led by historian Dr. Robyn Atcheson. Discover how people coped with outbreaks andwhere the dead were buried.

14+

HISTORY + SOCIETY



#### NI ORIENTEERING @ MUSSENDEN TEMPLE

MUSSENDEN TEMPLE AND DOWNHILL DEMESNE, CASTLEROCK

**THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY** 

11:00AM - 3:00PM

£3

Come along and explore the stunning National Trust grounds of Mussenden perched above the north coast. North West Orienteering club will welcome you and have two courses for you to navigate your way around.

**ALL AGES** 

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE



#### A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO AURORA CHASING

**BELFAST EXPOSED** 

THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

7:30PM

£10 / £7 CONCESSION

Award-winning geography teacher Alistair Hamill will delve into the science behind the aurora borealis, how the Sun's activity creates these stunning displays and how to capture them on late-night adventures.

14+

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE

# **HUMANITY'S GIANT LEAP:**

**EXPLORING SPACE**& SUSTAINABILITY

2 ROYAL AVENUE, BELFAST

**THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY** 

12:00 - 5:00PM

FREE

Explore how space exploration and sustainability address Earth's climate challenges. Enjoy interactive games, learn from experts on lunar living, renewable energy, and tackling ecoanxiety. Professors Mahesh Anand and Stephen Peake, with Dr. Fiona Aiken, share insights for a sustainable future. A dynamic event blending space, sustainability, and actionable solutions.

11+





# STUFF! HOW IS IT MADE? WITH MADDIE MOATE

THE MAC, BELFAST THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY

11:00AM & 2:00PM

£12

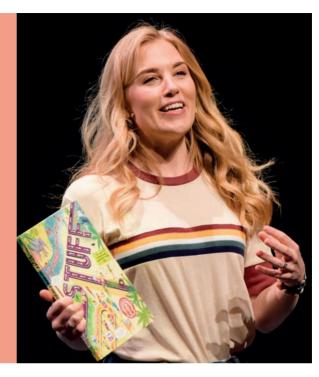
Straight off the pages of her book and onto the live stage, Maddie Moate brings you incredible facts and fascinating stories about the remarkable ways people around the world make and re-use STUFF!

With readings from her book, demos, and lots of audience interaction, Maddie will inspire young minds to think about the ingenious ways we can make, use, and reuse the stuff around us.

**5+ & PARENTS/GUARDIANS** 

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION







#### RELAX MORE, STRESS LESS

CARRICK-A-REDE, BALLINTOY THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 6:00PM

£10

This talk and workshop examines how stress impacts the body and mind, activating the sympathetic nervous system. Discover the brain's role in stress, and learn how relaxation techniques like conscious breathing can restore balance, shifting the nervous system to a parasympathetic state.

14+

MIND + RODY



#### NI MEDTECH SAVING LIVES

ULSTER UNIVERSITY, BELFAST THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 6:30PM

FREE

Find out how NI MedTech is saving lives through innovative products and research with three short talks and a panel session. Discover the state-of-the-art Centre for Digital Healthcare Technology's role in advancing cardiology, diabetes, respiratory, and stroke care

**ALL AGES** 

TECH + INNOVATION



# FIRE OF LOVE

MONEYDARRAGH HUB. 101 LONGSTONE ROAD, BT34 4UZ NEWRY

THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 7:30PM

£5

Join us for a special rural screening of *Fire of Love* in the heart of the Mourne Mountains.

Presented in association with Film Hub N.I's Spotlight Programme.

12+

# AUTISM AND WOMEN

THE MAC, BELFAST
THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY
5:30PM

£16.95

Explore the overlooked experiences of autistic women, who often remain unseen due to underdiagnosis and masking behaviours. Dr. Gemma Williams combines research and personal insights to highlight the unique challenges autistic girls and women face, followed by an inclusive Q&A session.

18+

MIND + RODY





# JULES HOWARD - INFINITE LIFE

SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE, BELFAST

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 7:30PM

£8

Delve into the fascinating evolution of the animal egg, the unsung hero of survival and evolution. Based on his book Infinite Life, zoologist Jules Howard reveals the egg's crucial role in the development of life on Earth across eras.

14+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PHARMACY

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY** 

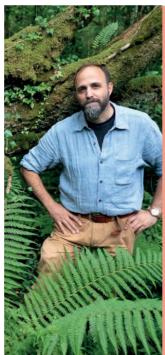
7:00PM

FREE

Discover how Queen's University Belfast's School of Pharmacy advances healthcare through cutting-edge research and education.

ALL AGES

MIND + BODY



# EOGHAN DALTUN WITH

THE PLAYHOUSE,
DERRY~LONDONDERRY

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 7:30PM

£8 / £6 CONCESSION

Presenter Joe Mahon interviews Eoghan Daltun about The Magic of an Irish Atlantic Rainforest. Discover Ireland's temperate rainforests through Daltun's captivating images and powerful nature writing.

14+



# ARTIFICIAL IMAGINATION WITH JOCELYN BURNHAM

NERVE CENTRE, DERRY~LONDONDERRY THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

#### £5 / £3 CONCESSION

Join AI expert Jocelyn Burnham for an energetic tour of 'creative' AI. Discover how AI merges with human creativity to revolutionise art, music, and learning.

#### **ALL AGES**

TECH + INNOVATION



#### A LOOK AT THE STARS, A STEP BACK THROUGH TIME

OTT CAR PARK, HILLTOWN THURS 13 & THURS 20 FEBRUARY 7:30PM

#### £25

Hike into the heart of the Mournes under the night sky, guided by expert storytellers. Enjoy stargazing, ancient myths, and modern astronomy as you walk through mountain tracks in darkness.

#### 14+

MIND + BODY



# THE SCIENCE OF DREAMS

THE MAC, BELFAST THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 8:00PM

#### £16.95

Join neuroscientist Dr. Kathy Ruddy for a deep dive into the science of sleep and dreams. Discover how light, movement, and daily experiences influence sleep quality, and learn about groundbreaking neuroimaging studies revealing the brain's activity during sleep.

#### 104

MIND + BODY

#### CHARLIE HOOPER-WILLIAMS

THE HARTY ROOM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY** 

#### 8:00PM

#### £10

Experience the spellbinding artistry of composer and pianist Charlie Hooper-Williams. Combining virtuosic textures with custom-built machines, his innovative performances transform piano into a canvas of new, rich soundscapes.

From award-winning classical roots to groundbreaking compositions, this is music and technology in perfect harmony. Unmissable!

14+

ART + SCIENCE



# THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Mannok Factory Tour	9:30AM	Derrylin
Innovation in Action: An Engineering Research Showcase	9:30AM	Belfast
The Ultimate Bubble Show	VARIOUS	Armagh
Synth Hackathon 2025	10AM	Belfast
Retro Game Design	10AM	Armagh
Love is in the Aerial	10AM	Derry / Londonderry
Peatlands in Action: Restoring Nature, Protecting the Future	10AM & 2PM	Omagh
Discover History and Myth Through Wimmelbilders	10:30AM & 12PM	Belfast
Stuff! How is it Made? with Maddie Moate	11AM & 2PM	Belfast
Science of Cinema	11AM	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	11AM	Lisnaskea
NI Orienteering @ Mussenden Temple	11AM	Castlerock
Fungi Fun / Spraoi na mbeacán	11AM	Belfast
Look Closer   NISF Roadshow	11AM	Newcastle
Humanity's Giant Leap: Exploring Space & Sustainability	12PM	Belfast
Pox, Plagues & Paupers: Horrible Histories of Belfast	2PM	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	2PM	Armagh
Extinction Explorers	2PM	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	2:30PM	Kells
Chemistry & the Celts   NISF Roadshow	3РМ	Newcastle
Autism and Women	5:30PM	Belfast
Relax More, Stress Less	6РМ	Ballintoy

NI MedTech Saving Lives	6:30PM	Belfast
Artificial Imagination with Jocelyn Burnham	7PM	Derry / Londonderry
The Wonderful World of Pharmacy	7РМ	Belfast
Eoghan Daltun with Joe Mahon	7:30PM	Derry / Londonderry
A Beginner's Guide to Aurora Chasing	7:30PM	Belfast
Fire of Love (Film)	7:30PM	Moneydarragh
Jules Howard - Infinite Life	7:30PM	Belfast
	7:30PM 7:30PM	Belfast Hilltown
Infinite Life  A Look At The Stars, A Step Back Through		







# 14 FEBRUARY





#### **MEGA 3D**

# THE CRESCENT, BELFAST FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

#### £8 / £6 CONCESSION

Investigate in 3D the world's most enormous animals with zoologist Jules Howard! Discover ancient giants like the megalodon and sabre-toothed cats, today's elephants and whales, and learn why some vanished. Uncover fascinating clues and ways to protect megafauna today.

7+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# MASTER CRAFT CHOCOLATE EXPERIENCE

NEARYNÓGS, KILKEEL FRI 14, SAT 15, WED 19, FRI 21 & SAT 22 FEBRUARY 10:00AM & 3:00PM, £21 / £7

Discover NearyNógs, Ireland's first bean-to-bar craft chocolate makers. Enjoy a tour through the chocolate-making process, from bean sorting to tempering. Taste ethically sourced, single-origin chocolates from around the world.

12+

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



# GET ARTY WITH ARCHAEOLOGY

ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 10:00AM

#### FREE

Join HERONI archaeologists Bronagh Murray and Hannah Parker and create your own pop-up castle or replica Bann disc, handle prehistoric pots and artefacts, and explore the Historic Environment Map Viewer. Suitable for families and individuals; all materials provided.

**ALL AGES** 

HISTORY + SOCIETY



# LIVE ACTION LINEN

BELFAST EXPOSED, BELFAST FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

10:00AM - 12:00PM, 2:00PM - 4:00PM

#### FREE

Belfast Exposed is hosting "Fibre" by Yvette Monahan, in collaboration with The Gaia Foundation's campaign "We Feed The UK. For one day the linen making process will be brought to life as farmers and textile makers come together.

#### ALL AGES

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 



#### EARTH & EROS: A MOURNES ADVENTURE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CENTRE, HILLTOWN

FRI 14 & SAT 15 FEBRUARY 10:30AM - 3:30PM

#### £70

Take a Valentine's adventure combining science, myth, and nature. Hike beautiful trails in the Western Mournes, discovering the intricate beauty of the landscape with expert guides.

#### 14+

HISTORY + SOCIETY



# CRAFTERS OF THE FORGE

PATTERSON'S SPADE MILL, 751 ANTRIM ROAD, TEMPLEPATRICK

FRI 14, SAT 15, TUES 18 & WED 19 FEBRUARY

10AM, 12PM, 2:30PM PER DAY

£25

Ignite your creativity with a handson blacksmithing workshop! Learn forging techniques from National Trust blacksmiths and create your own bottle opener. Wear sturdy footwear and clothes you don't mind getting dirty!

#### 14+



#### A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE SCIENCE OF COMPOST

HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE FRI 14 & FRI 21 FEBRUARY

#### 11:00AM

Join Hillsborough Castle's gardeners for an outdoor, hands-on composting workshop! Learn soil science basics, explore the compost yard, and discover how to achieve the perfect carbon-to-nitrogen ratio.

#### 14+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# THE GOLDEN HARE: STORYTELLING & ART

WITH PADDY DONNELLY ST THOMAS CHURCH.

RATHLIN ISLAND FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

#### 11:30AM

#### £5

Welcome to Rathlin Island, the inspiration for Paddy Donnelly's beautiful tale! Join a Family Storytelling and Drawing Workshop as Paddy shares Meara and Grandad's search for the mythical golden hare.

#### 5-

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### SOCCER SCIENCE

AVONIEL LEISURE CENTRE,

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
FREE

Boys and girls aged 14-18 are invited to explore the science of sport in a dynamic event featuring expert panels, Q&As, and networking with professionals, then join a 5-a-side tournament and trophy celebration!

Supported by Choice Housing, Rio Ferdinand Foundation, and partners.

#### 14+

MIND + BODY



#### NI ORIENTEERING

**@ NT FLORENCE COURT** 

FLORENCE COURT, FERMANAGH

**FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY** 

11:30AM - 3:00PM

#### £3

Come along and explore the stunning National Trust grounds of Florence Court in Co Fermanagh. Orienteers will welcome you and have two courses ready for you to navigate your way around.

#### **ALL AGES**

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# STARGAZING EVENING

@ THE PLANETARIUM ARMAGH PLANETARIUM FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

#### £5

Experience a magical stargazing evening at Armagh Planetarium during the NISF! Enjoy guided telescope observations, explore stars and constellations, and learn from expert astronomers. The event includes a Dome show access to the exhibition area, and the Data Visualization laboratory

#### **ALL AGES**

SPACE



# CHILDREN'S VOICES MATTER

DAVID KEIR BUILDING, QUB, BELFAST

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 4:00PM

#### FREE

Explore how children's voices shape critical issues like climate change, health, and peacebuilding. Through interactive presentations and discussions, learn how research empowers young voices. Open to all, especially parents and educators, this event fosters action and dialogue.

#### 14+

MIND + BODY



#### **TAKE A DEEP DIVE INTO THE DARK SIDE OF PERSONALITY**

DAVID KEIR BUILDING. **QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY** 

6:30PM

Discover how the 'Dark Tetrad'narcissism, psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and sadismshapes relationships and romantic styles. QUB invite you to uncover vour own dark traits, enjoy the 'Date the Trait' show, and delve into the balance of light and dark.

MIND + BODY



#### **BEYOND OUR** WORLD STARGAZING AND A SCI-FI FILM

THE OLD CHURCH. **CUSHENDUN** 

**FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY** 

6:00PM (FILM), 8:00PM (STARGAZING)

Experience the wonders of space with stargazing alongside the Northern Ireland Amateur Astronomy Society. After enjoy a sci-fi film screening by Film Hub NI at the Old Church Centre.



#### CANOODLING: A ROMANTIC PADDLE FOR NATURE LOVERS

**BLUE. GREEN YONDER -**CASTLE ISLAND, ENNISKILLEN **FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY** 

6:45PM

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a tranquil paddle around Enniskillen, guided by Blue Green Yonder, Explore Lough Erne's natural wonders before cosving up at Castle Island Café with warm drinks, romantic treats, and stunning water views. A perfect Nature Lover event for you and your special someone.

**ENVIRONMENT +NATURE** 



#### **FACTORY TOURS** AT MCCONNELL'S DISTILLERY

MCCONNELL'S DISTILLERY. **CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL, BELFAST** FRI 14, SAT 15, WED 19, FRI 21,

**SAT 22 FEBRUARY** 

6:00PM (14TH, 19TH, 21ST) / 4:00PM (15TH & 22ND)

Explore McConnell's Distillery on this behind the scenes tour. Guests will be taken on a unique and in-depth tour of the fully operational McConnell's Distillery.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 



#### **HMS CAROLINE** STARGAZING

**HMS CAROLINE, BELFAST FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY** 

5 PM - 7.30PM

Join us to explore the Royal Navy's journey from ancient celestial navigation to modern GPS. Discover the critical role of the stars in naval strategy and how technology transformed navigation. Your ticket is an annual pass, including access to our ship tour.

**ALL AGES** 

SPACE



# **WEIRD SCIENCE**

**NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY** CINEMA

**FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY** 8:00PM

£6

An 80s cult classic! Geeky outcasts Gary and Wyatt, desperate for popularity, create their dream woman using a computer. Inspired by Frankenstein, they aim to win over their crushes and outdo the school jocks.

16 +

ART + SCIENCE



**ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST** 

**FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY** 

7PM-10.30PM

Discover the science of love at the Late Late Love Lab!

An unforgettable evening of romance, relationships, and revelations as we unravel the mysteries of love and attraction. Delve into the fascinating science of connection with:

Jules Howard and Dr. Erica McAlister uncovering the scandalous sex lives of insects.

**Kathryn Harkup** exploring the deadly allure of beauty in *Dying* to *Be Beautiful*.

Dr. Mike Simms with Romancing the Stones. Gemstones: A symbol of true love, or a good crystal ruined?

Indulge your senses at the **Scent of Affection workshop** with Lush, learn to send messages coding workshops by Sentinus, or make your love permanent with a museum-inspired tattoo from Skullduggery Tattoo.

Come for the science, stay for the sparks!

18+

MIND + BODY

NISCIENCEFESTIVAL 21

# FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

The Ultimate Bubble Show	VARIOUS	Armagh
Get Arty with Archaeology	10AM	Belfast
Synth Hackathon 2025	10AM	Belfast
Live Action Linen	10AM & 2PM	Belfast
Master Craft Chocolate Experience	10AM & 3PM	Kilkeel
Earth & Eros: A Mournes Adventure	10:30AM	Hilltown
Crafters of the Forge	VARIOUS	Templepatrick
Soccer Science	11AM	Belfast
A Beginner's Guide to the Science of Compost	11AM	Hillsborough
Science of Cinema	ПАМ	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	11AM	Irvinestown
Jules Howard - MEGA	ПАМ	Belfast
Fungi Fun / Spraoi na mbeacán	11AM	Belfast
Look Closer   NISF Roadshow	11AM	Strabane
NI Orienteering @ NT Florence Court	11:30AM	Fermanagh
The Golden Hare: Storytelling & Art with Paddy Donnelly	11:30AM	Rathlin
Extinction Explorers	2PM	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	2PM	Limavady
Kubo The Robot	2PM	Newtowards
Chemistry & the Celts   NISF Roadshow	3РМ	Strabane
Children's Voices Matter	4PM	Belfast
HMS Caroline Stargazing	5PM	Belfast
Beyond Our World – Stargazing and a Sci-Fi Film	6PM	Cushendun

Factory Tours at McConnell's Distillery	6РМ	Belfast
Take a Deep Dive into the Dark Side of Personality	6:30PM	Belfast
Canoodling: A Romantic Paddle for Nature Lovers	6:45PM	Enniskillen
Stargazing Evening @ The Planetarium	7РМ	Armagh
Base Arcade x NISF	7PM	Belfast
Late Late Love Lab	7PM	Belfast
Weird Science (Film)	8PM	Newcastle











#### **GEOLOGY ROCKS IN** THE MOURNES

**CARRICK LITTLE TOP CAR** PARK, ANNALONG

**SAT 15 & SAT 22 FEBRUARY** 9:00AM - 4:00PM

£70

Join us for a mountain adventure in the Mournes, blending hiking. geology, history, and outdoor thrills. Enjoy a guided geology tour, optional caving inside the mountain, and 150-foot abseiling (relax, that's optional!).

14+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### **ARTIFICIAL** INTELLIGENCE AND THE COMPUTING THAT DRIVES IT

**OUB COMPUTER SCIENCE BUILDING, BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

11:00AM - 2:00PM

FDFF

Al is everywhere, in algorithms prioritising your social media feed, Chat-GPT revising your writing, or your satnav. But how does it work? We will explore some of the principles behind AI, and the ways it can fail

124

TECH + INNOVATION



#### **BASE ARCADE X NISE**

**BANANA BLOCK, BELFAST FRI 14 & SAT 15 FEBRUARY** TIME(S): VARIOUS

£20 (ADULTS) / £8 (KIDS)

Celebrate love and games this Valentine's weekend at Base Arcade in Belfast! In collaboration with the NI Science Festival. Base Arcade brings you a heartpounding blend of vintage arcade fun, pinball nostalgia, and retro console games.

**ALL AGES** 

TECH + INNOVATION

#### DISCOVER DOGS

ST COLUMB'S PARK HOUSE. **DERRY/LONDONDERRY** 

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

10:00AM - 4:00PM

VARIOUS ADMISSION, SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

Embark on a day of talks, demos, and insights into canine health, nutrition, history, and roles in therapy, conservation, and medicine. With experts, trainers, and researchers on hand, this free event is perfect for dog enthusiasts. Some talks require registration. Assistance dogs only indoors

**ALL AGES** 



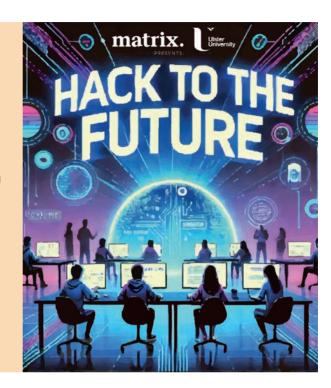
# HACK TO THE FUTURE

ULSTER UNIVERSITY, BELFAST SAT 15 & SUN 16 FEBRUARY CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS EDEF

Matrix is working in partnership with Ulster University to host a 2 day Hackathon, inviting coders to 'Hack to the Future' based on Matrix sectoral foresight studies, building solutions for the identified challenges in 2050.

12+

TECH + INNOVATION



#### matrix.



#### DOCTORING JAMES JOYCE

SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

1:00PM

#### **FREE**

Dive into the wonderfully weird world of James Joyce, Ireland's literary icon with an unexpected scientific twist. Professor Mark Lawler brings Joyce's genius to life as he reimagines his celebrated one-man show.

#### **ALL AGES**

HISTORY + SOCIETY



#### VISUALISED KARAOKE

HARTY ROOM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2:00PM

£1

Join the country's best sciencethemed karaoke, where your singing is visualised live! To register, email j.darcy@qub.ac.uk with "KARAOKE" in the subject and your song choice, ideally one full of references to sight or colour.

14+

ART + SCIENCE



# SCIENCE ON THE ISLAND

CASTLE ISLAND, ENNISKILLEN
SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

10:00AM

£15

Immerse yourself in the natural and history of the Lakelands of Fermanagh, and partake in games with a scientific twist, learning and discovering both on land and water.

**ALL AGES** 

MARBLE ARCH CAVES. FLORENCECOURT

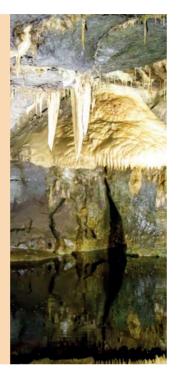
**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

10:00AM - 1:00PM

Explore the Marble Arch Caves' captivating underground world! Witness the Shru Croppa River's vibrant green transformation through dye tracing with Paul Wilson from the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. Enjoy a showcave experiment and immerse yourself deeper with our new Oculus VR technology.

**ALL AGES** 

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 





#### **HISTORICAL** WRECK

& GEOLOGICAL **CAUSEWAY COAST** SEA SAFARI

BALLYCASTLE HARBOUR (MEETING POINT)

**SAT 15 & SAT 22 FEBRUARY** 10:30AM

An unforgettable journey along the Giant's Causeway coastline! Set sail around Rathlin Island to uncover the rich maritime history, geological wonders, and shipwreck stories.

**ALL AGES** 

HISTORY + SOCIETY



#### WOODLAND **WONDERS TAKING SCIENCE OUTSIDE**

HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE **SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 10:30AM & 1:30PM

Get outdoors and make a mini beast hotel - Let's create a hidey hole for creatures galore. What can you find in the garden, from compost to leaves, bark and sticks to build a small home for minibeasts that live in your garden.

**ALL AGES** 

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



#### **BUILD THE UNIVERSE!**

LANYON BUILDING, OUEEN'S **UNIVERSITY BELFAST** 

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

10:30AM & 2:00PM

**FREE** 

Come along and build the Universe! Ever wondered what a black hole actually looks like? Or why does the sun have layers? In a creative journey taking you from the centre of the Earth to the edge of a black hole, we will explore how astronomers see the Universe via art!

**ALL AGES** 

SPACE



#### **QUEEN'S BIOLOGY** SHOWCASE

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY **BELFAST** 

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

10:30AM

FREE

Join researchers from Queen's University Belfast's School of Biological Sciences at their Biology Showcase! Discover how they study biodiversity, sustainable food production, and disease prevention.

**ALL AGES** 

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 

**SATURDAY** 15 FEBRUARY



#### MARITIME MILE SOUND & LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

MARITIME MILE, BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 10:30AM

£15

Discover the Maritime Mile on a Sound and Light photography tour. Explore Belfast's historic waterfront, visiting SoundYard, the Great Light, Hamilton Dock, Titanic Slipways, and the Titanic Walkway.

18+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### QUB ASTRONOMY DAY

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

10:30AM - 4:00PM

FREE - DROP IN

Embark on an interstellar adventure with the Astrophysics Research Centre at Queen's University Belfast, offering spacethemed activities, Northern Lights demonstrations and solar surface viewing through telescopes (weather permitting).

**ALL AGES** 

SDACE



# HOW CLEAN IS YOUR PHONE?

ULSTER UNIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAB, BELFAST

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

11:00AM

FREE

Join us for a hands-on exploration of germs lurking on your mobile devices! Participants will use swabs

to test their phones for contamination using a simple touch luminometer.

ALL AGES

MIND + BODY

#### CAPTURING RATHLIN:

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP & OVERNIGHT STAY

#### **RATHLIN ISLAND**

SAT 15 - SUN 16TH FEBRUARY CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS PACKAGES FOR TWO FROM £240 B&B

This exclusive package offers a unique blend of academic insight and artistic exploration through a photography workshop facilitated by Belfast Exposed and led by multi-award-winning photojournalist Cathal McNaughton.

Delve into the intricacies of portrait photography, mastering the art of capturing islanders in their favourite setting – whether bathed in the natural daylight of the bay or nestled by the fireside during the evening hours, the photos created during this workshop unravel the nuances of light and shadow endemic to Rathlin.

16+





## THE VANISHING LAKE AND FILM

THE OLD CHURCH, CUSHENDUN

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 11:00AM (WORKSHOP), 12.30PM (FILM)

£10

NI illustrator and author Paddy Donnelly hosts an interactive workshop exploring his acclaimed children's book The Vanishing Lake and its ties to the natural world. The event concludes with a family-friendly film screening, perfect for all ages.

5+ & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### HEALTHCARE HEROES -

STEP INTO THE SIMULATION BELFAST'S

INTERSIM CENTRE, MBC, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

11:00AM & 2:00PM

£3

This event invites young people and families to explore healthcare professions through interactive experiences. Focusing on Healthcare Heroes of the Future, participants will envision their roles in solving healthcare challenges.

**ALL AGES** 

MIND + BODY



#### A JOURNEY THROUGH BELFAST'S MEDICAL HISTORY

45 FREDERICK STREET, BELFAST SAT 15, SUN 16 & SAT 22 FEB II:00AM

£22.50

Take a tour exploring Belfast's rich medical history with all its diseases, doctors, and dynamic discoveries.

ALL AGES

HISTORY + SOCIETY

# HOW TO SURVIVE IN SPACE WITH DR DAN &

NERVE CENTRE, DERRY~LONDONDERRY (15TH) / THE MAC, BELFAST (16TH)

**SAT 15 & SUN 16 FEBRUARY** 

11:00AM & 2:00PM

£8 (DERRY) & £10 (BELFAST)

CBBC's Operation Ouch! presenters Dr Dan and Dr Raph bring the exhilarating experience of space adventure, space science and space medicine to Earth.

Get the whole family ready to embark on a thrilling journey through the cosmos as Dr Dan and Dr Raph take you on a galactic journey like no other! How to survive in Space will transport you to the furthest reaches of the universe, where you'll learn about the latest breakthroughs in science and medicine.

11+

SPACE





#### WILD ABOUT SLIEVE GULLION

SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

1:00PM

**FREE** 

Are you up for some wildlife and forest challenges? Join our team of nature buffs for art, games and fun activities that will show you all you need to know about the wildlife of Slieve Gullion.

6-10

**FNVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### QUB EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE SHOWCASE

WELLCOME-WOLFSON
INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIMENTAL
MEDICINE, BELFAST

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

1:00PM

FREE

Join us for an interactive event with local scientists researching vision, vascular disease, respiratory medicine, and the immune system.

**ALL AGES** 

MIND + BODY



#### POWER PLANTS

FUTURE WORKSHOP

ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

1:00PM - 3:00PM

**FREE** 

Join our drop-in workshop for children (and playful adults...) and explore your creativity by designing and making a Power Plants 'tray garden', a miniature representation of your ideal future world.

**ALL AGES** 

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE

#### IN CONVERSATION: SIR TIM SMIT

ELMWOOD HALL, BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 4:00PM

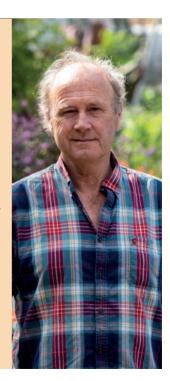
#### £5 / £3 CONCESSION

Sir Tim Smit, co-founder of the Eden Project, presents an inspiring and thought-provoking discussion on climate action. Explore how innovation and collective responsibility can drive meaningful change for our planet, and why hope—rooted in knowledge—is the key to shaping a sustainable future.

124







#### MINI MOON -

BLACK BOX, BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1:00PM

*e*5

The crew of Mini Moon invite you for an afternoon of joyous dancing with colourful friends and take part in a fun, learning event about funky robots. The magical DJ Twister will be on the decks bringing the beats!

Mini Moon is an awesome club for children from the disabled and/or neurodiverse community who like to party and have a good time! It brings people together to enjoy a colourful, social gathering in relaxed and friendly space.

0-10

SPACE





# NORTHERN IRELAND RASPBERRY JAM

QUB SCHOOL OF MATHS AND PHYSICS TEACHING CENTRE SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1:00PM - 5:00PM

FREE

Join the Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam for a free, fun-filled day of coding, electronics, and invention! With activities for ages 6–10, from beginners right up to seasoned Pi experts, this hands-on event offers something for everyone.

**ALL AGES** 

TECH + INNOVATION



# THE SCIENCE OF CELL CULTURE AT OUB

THE WELLCOME – WOLFSON INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE, BELFAST

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1:30PM, 2:30PM & 3:30PM

£2

Get hands-on and explore how scientists grow and study human cells like nerve, muscle, and immune cells. Tour cutting-edge cell culture facilities and learn about groundbreaking research.

**ALL AGES** 

MIND + BODY



# IMAGING CORE FACILITY TOUR

THE WELLCOME - WOLFSON INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE, BELFAST

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

2:00PM & 3:00PM

£2

Discover the hidden world of microscopic life with live demos and cutting-edge techniques like confocal and electron microscopy. Explore critical research on eye diseases, cancer, and more at Oueen's University.

14+

MIND + BODY

SATURDAY
15 FEBRUARY



#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS TALK

ELMWOOD HALL, BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2:00PM

£2

Dr. Lucy Hawkes, a migration expert, earned her PhD from Exeter in 2007, pioneering sea turtle tracking. With over 60 publications cited 2,300+times, her research explores extraordinary animal athletes like basking sharks and bar-headed geese.

14+

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE



#### PADDLE BACK IN TIME -

THE MONKS, THE VIKINGS AND THE SMUGGLERS OF STRANGFORD LOUGH

STRANGFORD LOUGH ACTIVITY CENTRE, KILLINCHY

SAT 15 FEBRUARY 3:00PM & SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2.30PM

Embark on a kayak tour along Daft Eddie's smuggling route to Mahee Island. Local guide Rory Martin will lead you across Strangford Lough, where Dr. Sarah Baccianti will share insights into Nendrum Monastery and Viking history.

18÷

HISTORY + SOCIETY



## SOUND ON PAPER

HARTY ROOM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

3:30PM £1

Sounds can be harder to think about than sights, so we often make pictures of sounds. What can we see in these images and what do they hide? Dr Trevor Agus explores audio imaging tricks of the past and future and discusses their effect on how we (and our computers) think about sound.

14+

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



#### FROM GREY WOLVES TO GREY SQUIRRELS

ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST SAT 15 & SUN 16 FEBRUARY 2:00PM

FREE

Join us for a family-friendly tour exploring the history of the island of Ireland through its landscape and wildlife. Find out how humans have shaped the environment across Irish history and get hands-on with some of the museum's specimens.

ALL AGES

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### OBSERVING AT OM

OM DARK SKY PARK & OBSERVATORY, OMAGH SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

6:00PM

£10

Are you curious about the night sky but don't know where to begin? The team at OM Dark Sky are hosting an observing session for all ages and abilities to look at our night sky, just after sunset.

**ALL AGES** 

SPACE



#### **DEADLY DINNER**

WALLED CITY BREWERY, TAP ROOM

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY

7.30PM

£45

Chemist Kathryn Harkup and master brewer James Huey host a thrilling evening of deadly plots and poisonous ingredients. Enjoy a complimentary drink, three courses with drink pairings, and insights into crime fiction's toxic tales, real-life cases, and deadly clues.

14+

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# **SATURDAY**15 FEBRUARY

Capturing Rathlin: Photography Workshop & Overnight Stay	VARIOUS	Rathlin Island
Geology Rocks In The Mournes	9AM	Annalong
Discover Dogs	10AM	Derry / Londonderry
Science on the Island	10AM	Enniskillen
Think Deep	10AM	Florencecourt
Synth Hackathon 2025	10AM	Belfast
Master Craft Chocolate Experience	10AM & 3PM	Kilkeel
The Ultimate Bubble Show	VARIOUS	Armagh
Crafters of the Forge	VARIOUS	Templepatrick
Earth & Eros: A Mournes Adventure	10:30AM	Hilltown
Historical Wreck & Geological Causeway Coast Sea Safari	10:30AM	Ballycastle
Woodland Wonders - Taking Science Outside	10:30AM & 1:30PM	Hillsborough
Build the Universe!	10:30AM & 2PM	Belfast
Queen's Biology Showcase	10:30AM	Belfast
Maritime Mile Sound and Light Photography Tour	10:30AM	Belfast
QUB Astronomy Day	10:30AM	Belfast
Look Closer   NISF Roadshow	11AM	Limavady
Base Arcade x NISF	11AM, 3PM, 7PM	Belfast
Artificial Intelligence and the Computing that Drives It	11AM	Belfast
How Clean is Your Phone?	11AM	Belfast
How To Survive in Space with Dr Dan & Dr Raph	11AM & 2PM	Derry / Londonderry
Healthcare Heroes - Step Into the	11AM & 2PM	Belfast

Simulation

The Vanishing Lake and Film	11AM	Cushendun
A Journey Through Belfast's Medical History	11AM	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	11AM	Carryduff
Power Plants - Imagining The Future Workshop	1PM	Belfast
Wild About Slieve Gullion	1PM	Slieve Gullion
Doctoring James Joyce	1PM	Belfast
QUB Experimental Medicine Showcase	1РМ	Belfast
Mini Moon - Space Robot Party	1PM	Belfast
Northern Ireland Raspberry Jam	1PM	Belfast
Inside the Lab - The Science of Cell Culture at QUB	1:30PM, 2:30PM, 3:30PM	Belfast
Visualised Karaoke	2PM	Belfast
From Grey Wolves to Grey Squirrels	2PM	Belfast
National Geographic Explorers Talk	2PM	Belfast
Paddle Back in Time	3РМ	Killinchy
Imaging Core Facility Tour	2PM & 3PM	Belfast
Chemistry & the Celts NISF Roadshow	3РМ	Limavady
Sound On Paper	3:30PM	Belfast
Sir Tim Smit - In Conversation	4PM	Belfast
Factory Tours at McConnell's Distillery	4PM	Belfast
Observing at OM	6РМ	Omagh
Deadly Dinner	7:30 PM	Derry / Londonderry
Hack to the Future	CHECK LISTING	Belfast





# WILD HILLS /

BELFAST CASTLE SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 10:00AM & 12:30PM

£5

Forager and folklorist Aoife de Bhál takes you on a guided walk in Cavehill Country Park to explore local flora, fauna, and fungi. Hear folklore, sample wild food and connect with the land and Irish language in this enriching outdoor experience.

12+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# SLIEVE GULLION GEO-HIKE

SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK, NEWRY

SUN 16 & SUN 23 FEBRUARY 10:00AM - 4:00PM

£40

Join our Earth Scientist guides for a hike to the summit of Slieve Gullion, where you'll explore groundbreaking geology, ancient myths, and 5,000-year-old archaeology.

12+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# BELFAST'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE: THE SIGNS OF PAST INDUSTRIES ON OUR STREETS

MEET AT BELFAST CITY HALL SUN 16 & FRI 21 FEBRUARY 1:00PM

£16

Take a two-hour walking tour through Belfast's city centre, uncovering remnants of the linen, shipbuilding, whiskey, printing, and engineering industries.

144

HISTORY + SOCIETY

#### ASTROPHYSICS FOR SUPERVILLAINS WITH MATT BOTHWELL

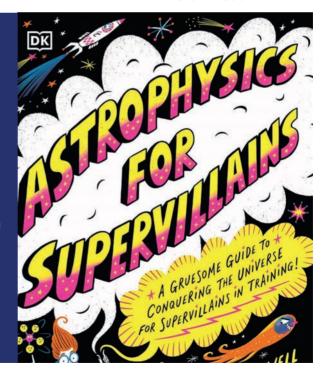
THE CRESCENT, BELFAST / ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

#### £7 / £5 CONCESSION

"Could you crash the Moon into the Earth? If the Sun explodes, would we all get vapourized? What's the weather like on Mercury?" Based on real questions from children, expert author Dr Matt Bothwell has created the Supervillain Academy to teach astrophysics to middle graders.

8-12 & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

MATHS + PHYSICS



# DODOS ARE NOT EXTINCT WITH PADDY DONNELLY

LEARNING ZONE, ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 11.30AM

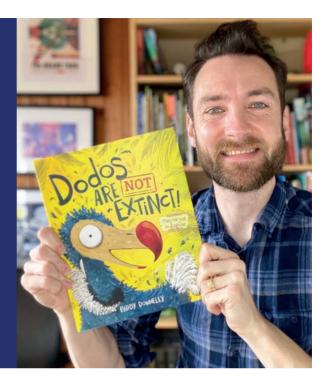
£5

Dodos are extinct, right? WRONG!

They're not! They're just in disguise, and they're not the only ones. Join author-illustrator Paddy Donnelly at the Ulster Museum for a fun storytelling and drawing workshop! Discover extinct animals like dodos and woolly mammoths and enjoy fascinating animal facts. After the event, perhaps you'd like to explore the museum to find some extinct creatures?

6+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 





#### 'LOVE YOUR BEACH'

#### **VALENTINE'S LITTER PICK**

PORTSTEWART BEACH SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

12:00PM

FREE

Join us at Portstewart Strand for a spring litter pick with Mae Murray Foundation. Enjoy inclusive, family-friendly activities for all ages and abilities on our accessible beach. Changing Places facilities and free parking for ticket holders available.

**ALL AGES** 

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### 

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM

SUN 16, SAT 22 & SUN 23 FEBRUARY

10:00AM - 4:00PM

FREE

Explore Armagh Planetarium's Astropark with an orienteering map and questions at each checkpoint. Suitable for all ages and abilities, complete the course at your own pace. Certificates awarded to those who navigate successfully. A fun, space-themed challenge awaits!

ALL AGES



#### **FLYING HIGH**

CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 1:00PM

FREE

Get ready to be wowed by the jaw dropping aerobatic stunts of Banbridge Aerodynamics Modelling Club at Castlewellan Forest Park. From simple manoeuvres to mind blowing tricks, both planes and helicopters will take centre stage and leave you in awe!

**ALL AGES** 

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 

# EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE WITH DR. MAGGIE ADERIN-POCOCK

WHITLA HALL, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

#### £12 / £10 CONCESSION

Space expert Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock presents an inspiring talk on the groundbreaking James Webb Space Telescope. Learn about its most stunning images, revolutionary discoveries, and the science reshaping our understanding of the universe. Books will be available for purchase, with a signing session following the event. Don't miss it!

14+

SPACE







#### MEEP AND THE MISSION TO MARS

**BOOK LAUNCH** 

CRESCENT ARTS CENTRE, BELFAST

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2:00PM

£4

Join award-winning author Máire Zepf and illustrator Paddy Donnelly for the launch of their new picture book, Meep! Inspired by NASA's Mars Rover, Opportunity, Meep tells the story of a brave robot exploring Mars.

4+

SPACE



# A PALETTE OF POSSIBILITIES CELEBRATING KIDNEY HEALTH

SENATE ROOM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY** 

1:30PM - 3:30PM

£2

Join us for interactive activities and inspiring talks! Discover how art aids kidney patients with the QUB Renal Arts Group, embark on a scientific journey with QUB researchers on genetics and health.

**ALL AGES** 

MIND + BODY



#### KATHRYN HARKUP A IS FOR ARSENIC

THE COURTHOUSE, BANGOR SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 7:30PM

£10

Agatha Christie often used poison as a murder method, with its characteristics offering vital clues. With A is for Arsenic, Kathryn Harkup explores poisons in 14 Christie novels, examining their effects and inspiration.

18+

MIND + BODY



# OAKS & EMBERS

A NATURE LOVERS
RETREAT BY LO & SLO

BROOK HALL, DERRY~LONDONDERRY

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2:30PM - 5:00PM

£95

This Valentines weekend enjoy a nature walk through Brook Hall's historic estate and gardens, followed by a live fire dining experience. Savour local produce, indigenous meats, and drinks, while learning the science involved in fire cooking over hardwoods.

18+

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

#### **OCEAN**

BRINGING MARINE DREAMS TO LIFE WITH STEVE BACKSHALL

WHITLA HALL, BELFAST SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 4:00PM - 5:00PM £24/£22 CONCESSION

Steve Backshall's Ocean is a love letter to the most exciting environment on our planet – and a great way to learn more about what we need to do to save our seas.

Cutting edge science and big screen footage from his two decades in TV will all help Steve to bring the icons of the Big Blue to life.

From Great whites to Great whales, seals to sardine shoals, Orca to the oddities of the deep: this is a fantastic opportunity for fans of all ages to dive deep into the wonderful world beneath the waves.

11+



### **SUNDAY**

# **16 FEBRUARY**

Wild hills / Cnoic fiáin	10AM & 2:30PM	Belfast
Slieve Gullion Geo-Hike	10AM	Newry
NI Orienteering @ Armagh Planetarium	10AM	Armagh
Synth Hackathon 2025	10AM	Belfast
How To Survive in Space with Dr Dan & Dr Raph	11AM & 2PM	Belfast
A Journey Through Belfast's Medical History	11AM	Belfast
Astrophysics for Supervillains with Matt Bothwell	11:30AM	Belfast
Paddy Donnelly - Dodos Are Not Extinct	11:30AM	Belfast
'Love Your Beach' Valentine's Litter Pick	CHECK WEBSITE	Portstewart
Hack to the Future	CHECK WEBSITE	Belfast
Flying High	1PM	Castlewellan
Belfast's Industrial Heritage - Walking Tour	1РМ	Belfast
Exploring the Universe with Maggie Aderin-Pocock	1РМ	Belfast
Magical Sounds with Echo Ta Ta & Friends	1РМ	Armagh
A Palette of Possibilities - Celebrating Kidney Health	1:30PM	Belfast
From Grey Wolves to Grey Squirrels	2PM	Belfast
Pox, Plagues & Paupers: Horrible Histories of Belfast	2PM	Belfast
Meep and the Mission to Mars - Book Launch	2PM	Belfast
Paddle Back in Time	2:30 PM	Killinchy
Oaks & Embers: A Nature Lovers Retreat by LO & SLO	2:30PM	Derry / Londonderry

Ocean - Bringing Marine Dreams To Life with Steve Backshall	4PM	Belfast
Kathryn Harkup -	7:30PM	Bangor













#### MOUNT STEWART'S AMAZING MICROCLIMATE

MOUNT STEWART, NEWTOWNARDS

MON 17 & FRI 21 FEBRUARY 10:30AM & 1:30PM

£3

Explore Mount Stewart's gardens, known for their Mediterranean and exotic plants. Join the National Trust and University of Bristol research team on a 2.5km walk to discover how climate data helps plan for the garden's sustainability.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



# LIVING WITH LYNX

SHARING LANDSCAPES WITH BIG CATS, WOLVES AND BEARS

CANADA ROOM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY

6:00PM

FREE

Join Dr Jonny Hanson for the launch of his book Living with lynx: Sharing landscapes with big cats, wolves and bears. The event features readings, guest perspectives, and book signings.

14.

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# HOW DID EVOLUTION GIVE US FREE WILL?

PETER FROGGATT CENTRE, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY

7:00PM

FREE

Do we have free will, and did it evolve with our brains? Could Al develop free will? As neuroscience and technology progress, these questions grow more complex. Professor Kevin Mitchell, author of Innate, will explore them in the NI Humanists Darwin Day Lecture.

104

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

#### THE SCIENCE OF SUPERHEROES IN FILM AND TELEVISION

THE BLACK BOX, BELFAST MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

FREE

Twelve of the top 30 highestgrossing films are superhero movies, with Marvel dominating. But how realistic are these superpowers? Prof. Francis Keenan of Queen's University Belfast explores the scientific accuracy of powers like flying and super-strength, the portrayal of non-superpowered heroes, and the concept of real-life superheroes.

18+

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION





# MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Mount Stewart's Amazing Microclimate	10:30AM & 1:30PM	
Kubo The Robot	2PM	Ballymoney
Kubo The Robot	3:15 PM	Dundonald
Living with Lynx - Book Launch	6РМ	Belfast
The Science of Superheroes in Film and Television	7PM	
Not Quite The Mensa Quiz	7РМ	Belfast
How Did Evolution Give Us Free Will?		

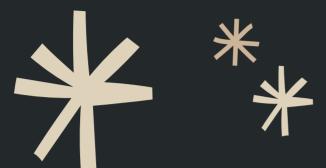




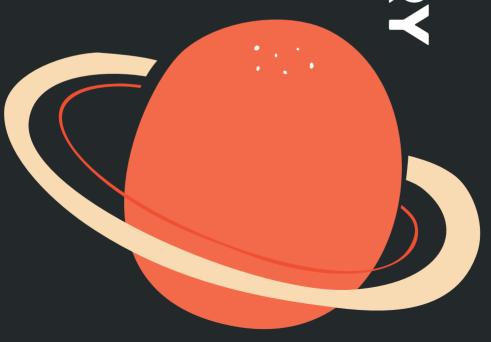












# THE 23RD ANNUAL SIR BERNARD CROSSLAND LECTURE

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

5:30PM

#### FREE

The Chief Executives' Club and Engineers Ireland present the 2025 Sir Bernard Crossland lecture in association with the Institution of Engineering and Technology. This year they welcome Warren East, President of The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Now in its 23rd year, the lecture series began in 2001 and is named to honour our late colleague Sir Bernard Crossland.

16+

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 





# FOLLOW THE RAINDROP

DORISLAND WTW, CARRICKFERGUS

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 10:00AM

#### FREE

Take a journey through the water cycle with NI Water's Scientific Team from Source to Tap through interactive displays followed by a tour of the treatment works and science laboratory.

#### **16**+

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 



#### EXPLORING THE SCIENCE OF CRITICAL II I NESS

GRADUATE SCHOOL, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY** 

7.00PM - 8.00PM

£5

Join members of the Critical Care and Respiratory research group from Queen's University Belfast as they talk you through the science of critical illness.

18+

MIND + BODY



# CADDISFLIES SCULPTORS OF THE STREAM BED

ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 11:00AM

#### FREE

Caddisflies are vital freshwater insects found in streams, pools, and ponds. As larvae, they spin silk to build intricate cases from materials like sand, stones, and sticks. This talk explores their remarkable cases.

#### **ALL AGES**



# THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE VIRTUAL RECORD TREASURY OF IRELAND

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, BELFAST

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 1:00PM

I:OOPI

FREE

Join experts from Trinity College Dublin and PRONI to explore the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland.

**ALL AGES** 

HISTORY + SOCIETY



# EXPRESS YOURSELF SOCIAL CAFE ROBOT EXPRESSION

BLACK BOX, BELFAST TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2:00PM

FREE

The Express Yourself Social Cafe crew are ready for an afternoon robotic rendezvous.

Express Yourself Social Cafe is a weekly, social gathering of adults from the learning disabled community.

18+

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



#### DAVAGH BY NIGHT

OM DARK SKY PARK & OBSERVATORY, OMAGH TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

4:00PM £10

This half-term we welcome little stargazers to explore Davagh by night with our astro-activities. Make your own telescope, learn about space with games, and as it gets dark we'll show you how to do a star count.

6-14

SDACE

# AN ANATOMICAL WORKSHOP ON RESPIRATION AND DEGLUTITION

(BREATHING AND SWALLOWING)

MEDICAL BIOLOGY CENTRE, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

11:00AM

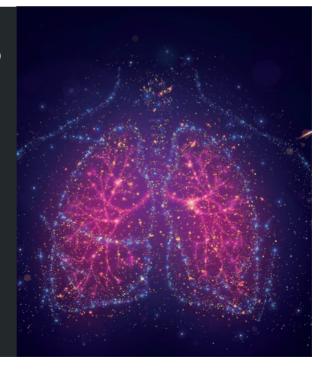
FREE

Explore the science of breathing and swallowing in this interactive workshop using 3D animation and advanced graphics. Learn about the four stages of swallowing, how breathing works, and the impact of conditions like asthma and dysphagia. Participate in handson learning stations for a deeper understanding of these vital processes.

Sayatimu tawfir altarjamat alearabia

**ALL AGES** 

MIND + BODY





#### ASTRONOMY ON TAP

LAVERY'S COMEDY CLUB, BELFAST

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

FREE

Astronomy on Tap is launching a satellite event near you! Grab a drink, enjoy some food, compete in activities to win space-themed prizes, and most importantly, laugh and learn about all things space through short talks from local astronomers.

18+

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



#### THE ART OF BATHING A SHORT HISTORY OF WELLNESS IN BATHING

LUSH, BELFAST

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

£9.38

Join us at Lush Belfast to explore the history and benefits of bathing, from ancient traditions to modern self-care.

14+

MIND + BODY



# BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACE SCIENCE OR

SCIENCE OR SCIENCE-FICTION?

NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY CINEMA

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

£6

Explore groundbreaking Brain-Computer Interface research with Dr. Kathy Ruddy, uncovering new techniques for brain recovery. Then, immerse yourself in the sci-fi classic The Matrix (1999).

18+

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

#### FAMELAB -NORTHERN IRELAND FINAL

THE BLACK BOX, BELFAST TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

7:00PM

FREE

Experience the thrilling showcase of scientific talent and communication at FameLab Northern Ireland's live final, featuring selected finalists competing with charm, scientific expertise, and innovation in a three-minute window.

184

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



matrix.

#### DATA

SECURING OUR FUTURE OR DOMINATING OUR LIVES?

LANYON BUILDING, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

#### FREE

Join Queen's University
Belfast's 180th celebrations
to explore data's role in
tackling global challenges.
An expert panel will discuss
data analytics, Al, and
cybersecurity, highlighting
solutions for a safer, healthier,
and more sustainable future
while addressing ethical
concerns. Includes talks, a
fireside chat, and audience
O&A.

#### **ALL AGES**

TECH + INNOVATION





# ROCKS FROM SPACE!

LARMOR LECTURE THEATRE, PHYSICS BUILDING, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

7:30PM

#### FREE

Join world-renowned expert Professor Monica Grady from the Open University for a captivating lecture on meteorites. Learn how these celestial objects from asteroids, Mars, and the Moon provide insights into the solar system and Earth's formation.

#### **ALL AGES**

SDACE



#### **MUSCLES ALIVE**

#### ULSTER UNIVERSITY, BELFAST TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 10:00AM AND 11:00AM

#### FDFF

Explore the vital role of muscle function in health and sport in this interactive talk. See your muscles in action with real-time imaging, witnessing how their structure drives movement and how the nervous system controls them, all through non-invasive technology.

#### 10+

MIND + BODY



#### **RUBY FREE**

SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

6:00PM

Dara McWade invites author of 'Rathlin, A Wild Life' Ruby Free for a special NISF edition of The Tuesday Group Workshop, a long-running creative writing workshop for prose writers at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's.

18+

ART + SCIENCE

# TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Muscles Alive	10AM & 11AM	Belfast
Follow the Raindrop	10AM	Carrickfergus
Crafters of the Forge	VARIOUS	Templepatrick
An Anatomical Workshop on Respiration and Deglutition	ПАМ	Belfast
Caddisflies – Sculptors of the Stream Bed	11AM	Belfast
The Technology of the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland	1РМ	Belfast
Express Yourself Social Cafe - Robot Expression	2PM	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	3:30PM	Moira
Kubo The Robot	3:30PM	Broughshane
Kubo The Robot	3:30PM	Randalstown
Davagh by Night	4PM	Omagh
Sir Bernard Crossland Lecture	5:30PM	Belfast
Ruby Free	6РМ	Belfast
Exploring the Science of Critical Illness	7PM	Belfast
FameLab - Northern Ireland Final	7PM	Belfast
Astronomy on Tap	7РМ	Belfast
The Art of Bathing: A short history of Wellness in Bathing	7РМ	Belfast
Brain-Computer Interface, Science or Science-fiction?	7РМ	Newcastle
Data - Securing Our Future or Dominating Our Lives?	7РМ	Belfast
Rocks from Space!	7.30PM	Belfast









# WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY



#### **BURKITT (FILM)**

IMC, RACEVIEW HOUSE, ENNISKILLEN

**WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY** 

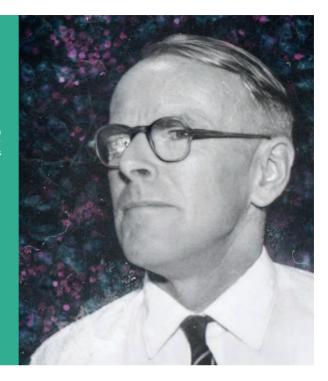
7:45PM

**£7** 

This creative documentary, directed by Burkitt's lymphoma survivor Éanna Mac Cana, explores the life and legacy of Fermanagh-born surgeon Dr. Denis Burkitt, who discovered Burkitt's lymphoma

18+

MIND + BODY





#### **DAVAGH BY DAY**

OM DARK SKY PARK & OBSERVATORY, OMAGH

**WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY** 

#### 11:00AM

£10

Creative minds are invited this half-term to come and explore Davagh by day. Visit the Davagh Stone Circles during a nature walk, create artwork using the Sun, before designing and building your own Solar System to take home.

6-14

SPACE



#### THE FUTURE OF AI AND HUMANITY

ULSTER UNIVERSITY, BELFAST WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

1:00PM - 4:00PM

#### FREE

Join us for a workshop exploring the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Discuss its potential to achieve human-level intelligence, the ethical implications, and societal impacts.

14+

TECH + INNOVATION



#### IN TOUCH WITH EARTH'S TREASURES

ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 11:30AM

#### FREE

A sensory tour of crystals, fossils, elements and more. A drop-in event, providing an opportunity to handle objects with different shapes, textures, densities and even smells, and to discover some of the reasons behind these varying properties.

**ALL AGES** 



# CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF TOXIC MASCULINITY

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY** 

7:00PM

#### FREE

Dr. Paul Caplat from Queen's University Belfast as he examines the economic Costs and societal impacts of toxic masculinity.

18+

MIND + BODY



# THE TREE THAT BENDS: HOW A FLEXIBLE MIND CAN HELP YOU THRIVE

THE CRESCENT, BELFAST WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

#### £7/£5 CONCESSION

Modern life demands relentless success, often leading to burnout. Clinical psychologist Ross White offers another way: thriving through psychological flexibility.

14+

MIND + BODY



#### **TENX9**

BLACK BOX, BELFAST WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

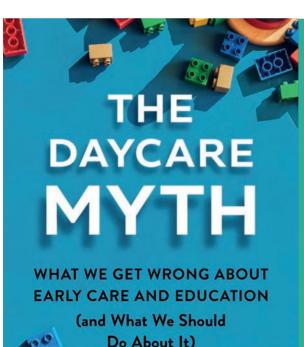
7:00PM FDFF

Explore the theme of Chemistry with Tenx9! In this special edition of the much-loved storytelling event, nine people will take the stage to share ten-minute tales from their own lives, each exploring chemical connections, reactions, and transformations!

18+

ART

+ SCIENCE



# THE DAYCARE MYTH A CONVERSATION WITH DR DAN WUORI

ULSTER UNIVERSITY, BELFAST WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

£5

Professor Victoria Simms and Dr Dan Wuori discuss The Daycare Myth, exploring the impact of early childhood care in the USA. Discover why reform benefits all and gain practical insights.

14+

ART + SCIENCE

# WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Crafters of the Forge	VARIOUS	Templepatrick
Master Craft Chocolate Experience	10AM & 3PM	Kilkeel
Davagh by Day	11AM	Omagh
In Touch with Earth's Treasures	11:30AM	Belfast
The Future of Al and Humanity	1PM	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	3:30PM	Antrim
Factory Tours at McConnell's Distillery	6РМ	Belfast
Tenx9	7РМ	Belfast
Causes and Consequences of Toxic Masculinity	7РМ	Belfast
The Daycare Myth - A Conversation with Dr Dan Wuori	7РМ	Belfast
The Tree That Bends: How a Flexible Mind can help you thrive	7РМ	Belfast
Burkitt (Film)	7:45PM	Enniskillen











# THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY





# RHODODENDRON DISCOVERY

#### ROWALLANE GARDEN, SAINTFIELD

#### THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 10:30AM

#### £20

Join Head Gardener Claire for a guided walk through Rowallane Garden's renowned rhododendron collection. Learn about the history, care, and conservation of these rare plants while enjoying expert insights and gardening tips.

#### **ALL AGES**

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# THE SCIENCE OF ARCHIVES BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR OF PRONI

#### PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, BELFAST

#### THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 11:30AM & 2:30PM

#### **FREE**

Join us at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland for an excl usive behind-the-scenes tour during the NI Science Festival and Discover the science behind preserving national heritage.

#### **ALL AGES**

HISTORY + SOCIETY



#### HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE BEHIND THE SCENES CONSERVATION

# HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE THURS 20 & FRI 21 FEBRUARY 1:30PM

#### £20.20

Discover how we conserve and preserve furniture, paintings, silverware and clocks for display in the State Rooms of Hillsborough Castle. Led by Castle and Collections Manager David Orr.

#### 144

HISTORY + SOCIETY

# DNA AND YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, BELFAST THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY

#### 1:00PM

FREE

Mitochondrial DNA testing is changing. Testing has been available for a number of years but has been of limited use to genealogists up until now.

Come and hear about the new developments which are being introduced. The mitochondrial tree of womankind will now be over eight times bigger and everyone who tests their DNA can find out so much more about their recent (and ancient) ancestors than previously.

#### **ALL AGES**

HISTORY + SOCIETY



# LOUGH NEAGH REFLECTIONS

RESTORING WATER QUALITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING, OUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY

#### 6:30PM

**FREE** 

Lough Neagh, supplying 40% of Northern Ireland's drinking water, faces public health risks from large-scale algae blooms. This event focuses on how farmers are reducing nutrient runoff and improving water quality. It includes a short film screening and panel discussion with policymakers, scientists, and farmers on sustainable solutions.

#### **ALL AGES**

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE





#### **GUT BRAIN AXIS**

#### THE MAC, BELFAST THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 5:30PM

#### £16.95

Explore the gut-brain axis with award-winning nutritionist Dr. Emily Prpa in this insightful workshop on nourishing both body and mind. Delve into the latest gut microbiome research, discover mood-boosting foods, and gain tools to support your gut-brain connection, followed by a Q&A session.

#### 18+

MIND + BODY



#### UNEARTHING THE HEAT BENEATH OUR FFFT

#### ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

#### FREE

Join us for the premiere of a short film on geothermal energy's potential in Northern Ireland, featuring the GeoEnergy NI project.

#### 14+

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE



#### WHAT IS LIFE?

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

#### FREE

Join Dr. Keith Farnsworth from Queen's University Belfast as he explores the intersection of physics, biology, and philosophy to explain the 'weird wilfulness' of life. Discover a new perspective on what it means to be alive and discuss implications for artificial systems and extraterrestrial life.

#### 18+

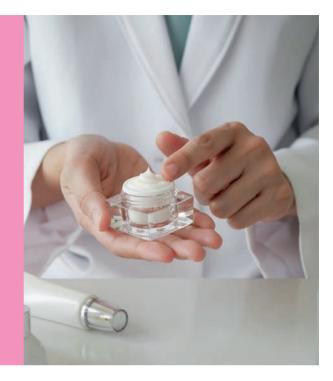
# SCIENCE OF SKINCARE

THE CRESCENT. BELFAST **THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY** 7:00PM

#### £8 / £5 CONCESSION

Is flawless, age-defying skin within reach? When it comes to skincare, we all want products backed by science, not just promises. Join renowned skin scientist Dr. Abigail Langton as she delves into the latest advancements and truths in skincare.

14+





#### WILDING (FILM)

PLAYHOUSE CINEMA, PORTRUSH

**THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY** 7:30PM

£5

Join us for a screening of 2023 documentary Wilding, the inspiring tale of a couple rewilding their failing estate. Witness their journey as they challenge tradition and restore nature. Stay for a postscreening Q&A and discussion about this significant European rewilding experiment.

#### **ALL AGES**



#### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN** YOUR HOME

**ULSTER UNIVERSITY, BELFAST THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY** 7:00PM

FREE

Frightened of "decarbonisation"? Well, let's think of energy efficiency first - the basic things you can do to reduce your energy bills And many of these things save carbon! But what else can you do?



#### **HIVE CHOIR PRESENTS 'THE BOG!**

SEAMUS HEANEY HOMEPLACE. **BELLAGHY THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY** 

8:00PM £10

Kick off the weekend with HIVE Choir's annual HIVEsplaining concert, exploring Irish boglands through original songs. Dive into historical, mythological, and scientific insights, set to melodies inspired by Irish tradition.



# UNCOVERING MOBUOY

THE PLAYHOUSE. **DERRY/LONDONDERRY** THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 7:30PM

#### £5 / £3 CONCESSION

Uncover the hidden story of Northern Ireland's Mobuoy waste crisis with insights from the creators of the Buried podcast, scientists, and local activists. Together, they explore the environmental impact, fight for transparency, and the ongoing quest for justice and accountability for this environmental disaster. With support from The Playhouse's Artitude: Climate, Culture & Circularity project

14+

#### **HOW TRAUMA** THE BODY

THE PSYCHOSOMATIC NATURE OF TRAUMA

THE MAC, BELFAST **THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY** 8:00PM

£16.95 / £14.50

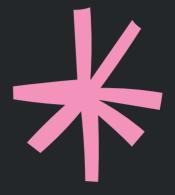
Join neuroscientist Dr. Megan Klabunde to explore how trauma affects the body, from the prefrontal cortex to the vagus nerve. Learn how trauma influences health, contributes to disease, and shortens lifespan, with insights into the science behind new treatments.

16+



# THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Rhododendron Discovery	10:30AM	Saintfield
The Science of Archives - Behind the Scenes Tour of PRONI	11:30AM & 2:30PM	Belfast
DNA and your Family History	1РМ	Belfast
Behind the Scenes Conservation Tour of Hillsborough Castle	1:30PM	Hillsborough
Kubo The Robot	2:30PM	Carnlough
The Gut Brain Axis	5:30PM	Belfast
Lough Neagh Reflections – Restoring water quality in Northern Ireland	6:30PM	Belfast
Unearthing the Heat Beneath our Feet	7PM	Belfast
Science of Skincare	7PM	Belfast
What is Life?	7PM	Belfast
Energy Efficiency in your Home	7PM	Belfast
A Look At The Stars, A Step Back Through Time	7:30PM	Hilltown
Wilding (Film)	7:30PM	Portrush
Uncovering Mobuoy	7:30PM	Derry / Londonderry
Hive Choir Presents 'The Bog!'	8PM	Bellaghy
How Trauma Affects the Body: The Psychosomatic	8PM	Belfast







Nature of Trauma







# LITTLE ASTRONOMERS

#### ARMAGH PLANETARIUM FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 10:00AM

£5

Transport your Little Astronomers into the exciting world of science!

Join us for hands-on activities and space-fun with time to explore our sensory room and exhibition hall after.

0-5 & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

SPACE



# FISHERIES INDUSTRY SCIENCE MASHUD!

NAUTILUS CENTRE, KILKEEL FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY

10:00AM - 3:00PM

FREE

Come down to Kilkeel, meet the UU team and find out about some of the research at the heart of Northern Ireland's Fishing Industry. Using advanced marine science and engineering technologies like underwater robotics and high-frequency acoustics, we study fishing gear's impact on seabed chemistry and sustainability.

**ALL AGES** 

TECH + INNOVATION

#### THE STORY OF THE PROTECTED WRECK, LA GIRONA

ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1:00PM

**FREE** 

Join Dr. Rory McNeary for an illustrated talk on the Protected Wreck, La Girona. Discover its history with the Spanish Armada, the wrecking event, and its rediscovery in 1967. Explore the artefacts in the Ulster Museum's Armada Collection and learn about the site's protected status and potential archaeological evidence

14+

HISTORY + SOCIETY



#### **LIVING AUTOPSY**

THE CRESCENT, BELFAST (21ST) & THE PLAYHOUSE, DERRY~LONDONDERRY (22ND)

FRI 21 & SAT 22 FEBRUARY

7:00PM (BELFAST) / 8:00PM (DERRY)

£8

Pathologists Rebecca Hassard and Rossa Inglis present a live event with an actor portraying a 'living' dead body. The demonstration covers the post-mortem process, real instruments, incision sites, organ examination, and tests conducted, while explaining pathologists' roles and the circumstances necessitating a post-mortem.

14+

MIND + BODY





# DRONEVIRUS WHAT MADE MY DRONES GO ROGUE?

COMPUTER SCIENCE BUILDING, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

**FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY** 

2:00PM

**FREE** 

An event focusing on your security in relation to drones. Gain hands-on knowledge of aerial and ground drones' vulnerabilities, inner workings, and communication weaknesses.

#### ALL AGES

TECH + INNOVATION



#### BEHIND THE LENS WITH RSPB'S BEN ANDREW

ONLINE

**FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY** 

7:00PM

£8

Acclaimed wildlife photographer Ben Andrew shares his journey with the RSPB, capturing stunning scenes across the UK. In this online talk, Ben will discuss his favourite images, the evolution of wildlife photography, and offer top tips for capturing nature with your own camera.

12+

# EXTINCTIONS HOW LIFE SURVIVES, ADAPTS AND EVOLVES WITH MIKE BENTON

SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE, BELFAST

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 7:00PM

£5

Explore Earth's mass-extinction events with Professor Michael J. Benton. This groundbreaking book reveals the "big five" die-outs, from the Great Dying to the dinosaurending asteroid, uncovering the causes and survival stories of life. With cutting-edge research, it connects ancient crises to today's Anthropocene challenges, offering vital insights for our future.

14+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 

'Let Benton be your guide to life and death.' STEVE BRUSATTE

#### MICHAEL J. BENTON



# **EXTINCTIONS**

How Life Survives, Adapts and Evolves



# SPOKEN WORD FLIGHT

BOUNDARY BREWING, BELFAST

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY

8:00PM

£18

Flight <definition> 'a sampling of several beers, or of a particular type of food, for the purpose of comparative tasting'

Imagine a beer flight where each beer is the backing track for a mini-lecture or story.

18+

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 



# AN EVENING WITH TURI

SEAMUS HEANEY HOMPLACE, BELLAGHY FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY

7:30PM £22.50

Join Professor Turi King, renowned for identifying King Richard III, for a Talk and Q&A. Explore her groundbreaking work in genetics, from forensics to archaeology, including past Northern Ireland cases and the recent discovery of a Bellaghy bog body.

11+

HISTORY + SOCIETY



# FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Little Astronomers	10AM	Armagh
Fisheries Industry Science Mashup!	10AM	Kilkeel
Wild Ireland - Past, Present, Future	10AM	Belfast
Master Craft Chocolate Experience	10AM & 3PM	Kilkeel
Mount Stewart's Amazing Microclimate	10:30AM	Newtownards
A Beginner's Guide to the Science of Compost	11AM	Hillsborough
Belfast's Industrial Heritage - Walking Tour	1PM	Belfast
The Story of the Protected Wreck, La Girona	1PM	Belfast
Behind the Scenes Conservation Tour of Hillsborough Castle	1:30PM	Hillsborough
DroneVirus – What made my drones go rogue?	2PM	Belfast
Kubo The Robot	3:30PM	Newtownbreda
Factory Tours at McConnell's Distillery	6РМ	Belfast
Behind the Lens with RSPB's Ben Andrew	7РМ	Online
Living Autopsy	7PM	Belfast
Extinctions: How Life Survives, Adapts and Evolves	7РМ	Belfast
An Evening with Turi King	7:30PM	Bellaghy
Spoken Word Flight	8PM	Belfast
Robo Bingo - Interactive Alt-Bingo For Introverts	8PM	Derry / Londonderry









# 22 FEBRUARY SATURD



# LIFE BEYOND EARTH

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 12:15PM

#### CHILD £5, ADULT £6

Experts at Armagh Planetarium explore how life formed and evolved on Earth. Discover how simple organisms thrived in harsh conditions and survive in extreme environments, even in space. The event includes discussions and practical laboratory experiments.

**ALL AGES** 

SPACE



# TEXTILE MECHATRONICS CHALLENGE

BELFAST EXPOSED, BELFAST SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 10:00AM - 4:00PM FREE

Join Fantasy Fibre Mill, Tiernan Stuart, and Mallon Linen for an open challenge to redesign machinery for natural fibre processing. Collaborate with designers, engineers, and makers to create open-source solutions transforming the textile industry.

16+

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 



#### DIGGING INTO BOG

ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDS AND THE WORK OF SEAMUS HEANEY

SEAMUS HEANEY HOMPLACE, BELLAGHY

**SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 

10:00AM - 4:00PM

£5

This one-day symposium explores Iron Age society, the significance of boglands, and Seamus Heaney's poetry inspired by the ancient past.

144

HISTORY + SOCIETY

#### **SUMMIT SCIENCE**

HOW DIVIS HELPED MEASURE THE EARTH

DIVIS AND THE BLACK MOUNTAIN BELFAST

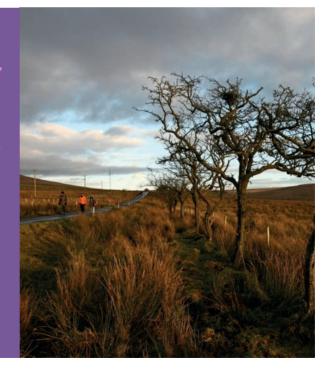
SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

£5

Discover how Divis helped measure the planet's size and shape 200 years ago. Join Professor Keith Lilley and Ken Stewart from Ordnance Survey NI at Divis and the Black Mountain for a fascinating talk, outdoor exploration, and insights into historic and modern surveying methods. Dress for the outdoors and experience the mountain's rich scientific history firsthand!

14+

HISTORY + SOCIETY



#### GRACE'S TRANSPORT TIMELINE

ULSTER TRANSPORT MUSEUM,

**SAT 22 & SUN 23 FEBRUARY** 

11AM & 2PM

### £15 (INCLUDES ACCESS TO THE MUSEUM)

Grace absolutely loves machines, gadgets, gizmos and anything with wheels! You may have even seen her on her award-winning CBeebies show 'Grace's Amazing Machines' where she explores some of the biggest, fastest and most amazing machines in the world.

Grace invites families to step back in time with her, to explore some of the incredible machines on display at the Museum and find out how these machines have evolved into really cool gadgets ready for life in the 21st century.

#### **ALL AGES**

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 





#### HOW DO WE LEARN ABOUT LEARNING?

**ULSTER MUSEUM** 

**SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 

11:00AM - 1:00PM

#### **FREE**

This event will offer an interactive set of activities for families to learn more about child development research. The activities will include a combination of researcher-led and self-directed activities for parents and children.

#### **ALL AGES**

MIND + BODY



# GET BRICKING! MINI MANUFACTURING WITH LEGO

ULSTER UNIVERSITY, BELFAST
SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

#### EDEE

Discover how Ulster University engineers are bringing sci-fi concepts to life! This 3D printing workshop showcases rapid, customised manufacturing for medical devices, aerospace, and space exploration.

#### 6-10

TECH + INNOVATION

10:00AM & 11:30AM





#### CONNECTING & SHARING THROUGH FOOD

BRINK!, BELFAST

**SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 

12:00 - 2:00PM

FREE

We need a deeper and more diverse understanding of food in Belfast. This event will use play and science to explore food in the city, and will also inspire and energise everyone to come together to grow more, talk more, cook more and share more.

**ALL AGES** 

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



#### MY LEFT OR YOUR LEFT? THE SCIENCE OF RIGHT LEFT CONFUSION

GRADUATE SCHOOL, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 12:00PM

-

Explore the science of right-left (laterality) discrimination in this interactive talk. Learn why some struggle with this ability and how it impacts critical fields like healthcare and aviation.

ALL AGES

MIND + BODY



#### **PEDDLE PICNIC**

STRANGFORD LOUGH ACTIVITY CENTRE. KILLINCHY

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

10:00AM

£60

Enjoy a guided electric bike tour into ancient surroundings around Strangford Lough, complete with an artisan picnic. This Archaeological tour explores the Nendrum Monastic site. Departing from Sketrick Island taking in breathtaking views along the way.

16+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### FORAGING AFLOAT

WHITEROCK BAY LAUNCH POINT, KILLINCHY

SAT 22ND & SUN 23RD FEBRUARY

1:00PM (22ND) / 1:30PM (23RD)

£85

Welcome spring on Strangford Lough with a kayak and foraging tour led by Rory Martin and Wild About Tours' David & Celia. Paddle through scenic waters and learn local history. Sample unique flavours and savour a wild-cooked picnic prepared by Chef Celia Spouncer.

18+



# **EXTINCTION**FOCUS ON PRIMATES

FOCUS ON PRIMATES BELFAST ZOO SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

£25

10:00AM

Join Belfast Zoo for an interactive workshop focusing on endangered primates. Explore threats to apes, monkeys, and lemurs, learn about global conservation projects, discover Belfast Zoo's efforts, and engage in enrichment activities for apes. Let's take action to prevent extinction!

**ALL AGES** 



#### **MILK**

**GUILDHALL**, **DERRY~LONDONDERRY SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 12:00PM

#### FREE

Milk offers an intimate, artistic exploration of birth, infant feeding, and the politics surrounding them. Join us for an inspiring, thoughtprovoking film, followed by a panel discussion.

Collaboration with NWBAPS Breastfeeding in Public Day 2025.

#### **ALL AGES**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 



#### **SPINE OR** SPINELESS? **VERTEBRATES AND INVERTEBRATES?**

BELFAST SCHOOL OF ART SHOP. **ULSTER UNIVERSITY. BELFAST** 

**SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 12:00PM - 3:00PM

Participants will learn about creatures with and without bones, and use drawing, painting, and collage to craft their own animal series. Finished pieces will be exhibited at the University.

6-10 & PARENTS/GUARDIANS ART + SCIENCE



#### **FEEDING BABIES** IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 12:00PM

#### £4

How does Northern Ireland ensure access to healthy food and water in emergencies? Despite its \$3.6 trillion value, breastmilk remains uncounted in global food stats. This discussion explores the importance of breastfeeding in times of crisis.

MIND + BODY



#### **FEELING** THE HEAT: **HOW VOLCANOES WORK**

**GIANTS CAUSEWAY VISITORS CENTRE SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 

#### **FREE WITH ADMISSION** IN GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

Curious about the forces that formed the Giant's Causeway? Join Dr. Kirsten Lemon from the British Geological Survey for interactive experiments demonstrating volcano formation and eruption predictions.

#### **ALL AGES**

11:00 AM

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# WATER WONDERS ON THE LAGAN

THE BARGE, LAGANSIDE (NEXT TO THE WATERFRONT HALL)

Step aboard Belfast's historic Barge for a journey into our waterways—past and future. Enjoy workshops, talks, and demos led by scientists, ecologists, and robots.

ALL AGES

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



**SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 

# MIMI'S SPACE ADVENTURE

FOYLESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE, DERRY~LONDONDERRY

SAT 22 & SUN 23 FEBRUARY

10:00AM - 4:00PM

FREE - DROP IN

Mimi loves asking questions about the Universe. When she wins a trip to mission control, her space adventure begins! Join Mimi's Space Adventure with the Institute of Physics for fun experiments, arts and crafts, and asking the questions of real physicists.

6-10

MATHS + PHYSICS



IOP



## OPEN SOUNDS

SONIC ARTS RESEARCH CENTRE, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SAT 22 & SUN 23 FEBRUARY 12:00PM

FREE

The Open Sound Lab offers hands-on interaction with diverse technologies such as Ableton Link, DJ decks, and electronic instruments, providing participants a glimpse into the JAM 4 experience alongside the chance to engage with different stations.

14-18

ART + SCIENCE



#### OUTDOOR SHADOWS TAKING SCIENCE OUTSIDE

HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 10:30AM & 1:30PM

£1

Learn about light, shadows, day and night and everything inbetween. How does light travel? What shadows are and how shadows change. Led by facilitator Jolene Nig Uidhir.

3-10

MATHS + PHYSICS



#### CUT AND PASTE

MBC, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 11:00AM

£4

Gene Editing allows scientists to precisely modify DNA, addressing global challenges like climate change, healthcare, and food security. However, it also raises ethical concerns about unintended effects on ecosystems and research regulation.

10+

MIND + BODY

# COLOUR OF DINOSAURS

ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1:00PM

£5

Twenty-five years ago, Sinosauropteryx, the first feathered dinosaur, sparked a revolution in palaeobiology. Advances, including methods to reconstruct feather colours, brought ancient creatures to life. Tested and refined, these methods underpin Dinosaurs: New Visions of a Lost World by Mike Benton and Bob Nicholls, showcasing lifelike reconstructions of ancient species.

11+

ENVIRONMENT + NATURE





# PADDLE WITH A PURPOSE

GREEN BOAT SHED, KILLINCHY SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1:00PM

£35

"Paddle with a Purpose," is a sustainable tourism experience on Strangford Lough.

Enjoy a guided canoe or kayak tour while participating in an island litter pick. Learn about the impact of litter on wildlife from local experts.

11+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### CLIMATE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

MBC, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1:00PM & 2:00PM

EDFF

Have you ever wondered what the healthcare of the future might look like? It's 2035; rising temperatures and erratic weather events have introduced a new range of challenges for our doctors to overcome.

8-12

MIND + BODY



#### AN EVENING OF CHEESE, WINE AND ISLAND PAIRINGS

ST THOMAS CHURCH, RATHLIN SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

7.30PM

#### **CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**

Food writer and "Cheeseologist" Patrick McGuigan, alongside Bushmills cheesemongers Maegden hosts an exclusive evening on Rathlin Island.

18+

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

72 | SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY



#### **VENUS AT OM**

**OM DARK SKY PARK & OBSERVATORY, OMAGH SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 6:00PM

#### £10

Join OM to witness Venus at its brightest, the third brightest object in the night sky. View the "evening star" through telescopes under Northern Ireland's darkest skies and explore its history as Earth's "evil twin," learning why ancient astronomers tracked this remarkable planet.

10÷

SPACE



#### SOIL TO PLATE SUSTAINABLE SUPPER

**BROUGHGAMMON FARM. BALLYCASTLE** 

**SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 7:00PM - 10:00PM

#### £49

Come and celebrate the seasons at Broughgammon Farm and learn about soil health and sustainable farming through a delicious farm to fork supper club.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 



#### **RAW & NATURAL**

THE OLD CHURCH, CUSHENDUN **SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 7:00PM - 8:30PM

#### £15

Kevin Sheridan of Sheridans Cheesemongers will host a special Raw Cheese and Natural Wine evening. Kevin will chat through the wines and cheeses as we taste them and explore the role of microflora in the development of flavour & aroma in these fermented foods. Followed by Live Music with Andy and Jan Oliver.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 

# NORTHERN IRELAND'S HIDDEN DEPTHS

A JOURNEY INTO OUR UNDERWATER WORLD

**ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 

The Marine Biodiversity Data Portal - NI team from Queen's University Marine Laboratory presents a virtual dive featuring 4K video of Northern Ireland's unique underwater habitats. Explore footage from Rathlin Island, The Maidens, The Copelands, and Strangford Lough, highlighting conservation efforts to protect these ecosystems.

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 

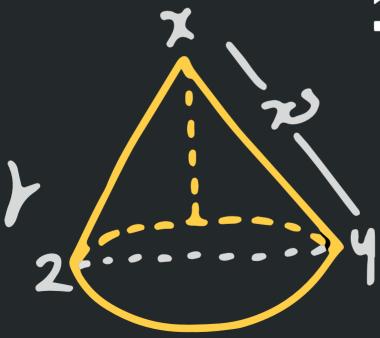


# SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Geology Rocks In The Mournes	9AM	Annalong
NI Orienteering @ Armagh Planetarium	10AM	Armagh
Summit Science: How Divis helped measure the Earth	10AM	Belfast
Textile Mechatronics Challenge	10AM	Belfast
Digging Into Bog: Archeological Finds and the Work of Seamus Heaney	10AM	Bellaghy
Wild Ireland - Past, Present, Future	10AM	Belfast
Peddle Picnic	10AM	
Extinction - Focus on Primates	10AM	Belfast
Mimi's Space Adventure	10AM	Derry / Londonderry
Water Wonders on the Lagan	ПАМ	Belfast
Get bricking! Mini Manufacturing with LEGO	10AM & 11:30AM	Belfast
Foyle Science Showcase	10AM & 1PM	Derry / Londonderry
Master Craft Chocolate Experience	10AM & 3PM	Kilkeel
Outdoor Shadows - Taking Science Outside	10:30AM & 1:30PM	Hillsborough
Historical Wreck & Geological Causeway Coast Sea Safari	10:30AM	
Grace's Transport Timeline	11AM & 2PM	Cultra
A Journey Through Belfast's Medical History		
Cut and Paste	11AM	Belfast
How Do We Learn About Learning?		
Feeling the Heat: How Volcanoes Work	11AM	Giants Causeway

Kubo The Robot	ПАМ	Carryduff
MILK	12PM	Derry / Londonderry
Feeding Babies in a Changing Climate	12PM	
Open Sound Lab	12PM	Belfast
	12PM	
Connecting & Sharing Through Food	12PM	Belfast
	12PM	
Life Beyond Earth	12:15PM	Armagh
	1PM & 2:30PM	
Foraging Afloat	1РМ	Killinchy
Colour of Dinosaurs		
Climate Emergency Department	1PM & 2PM	Belfast
Northern Ireland's Hidden Depths	3РМ	Belfast
Factory Tours at McConnell's Distillery		
Venus at OM	6РМ	Omagh
An Evening of Cheese, Wine and Island Pairings		
Soil to Plate - Sustainable Supper	7РМ	Ballycastle
Raw & Natural		
Robo Bingo - Interactive Alt-Bingo For Introverts	8РМ	Belfast
Living Autopsy		Derry / Londonderry

# SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY



#### FOR PEATS SAKE WITH LUCY LAPWING AND RSPB NI

**ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY** 3:00PM - 4:00PM

Join TV personality and nature enthusiast Lucy Lapwing and RSPB NI for an exploration of peatlands' importance in climate change. Discover bog ecosystems, wildlife, and RSPB's Peatland Programme efforts to protect these unique habitats.

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 





# A HISTORY OF IRELAND IN TEN

**ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY** 2:30PM

£5

A uniquely entertaining look at how physical and mental experiences have shaped Irish history. Skulls, heads, hands, height, legs, sex organs, blood, brains, stomachs, ears and corpses - discover Irish history through the prism of the body.



#### **MARS:** THE COMPLETE GUIDE WITH BRENDAN OWENS

LITTLE ACORNS BOOKSTORE. **DERRY~LONDONDERRY SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY** 

11:30AM

£5

Eager to learn more about the Red Planet? Join us for a talk with author Brendan Owens, a former astronomer at the Royal Observatory Greenwich and Public Engagement Manager at the Institute of Physics.

12+



# **ORYBOOK**

**NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY CINEMA** 

**SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY** 

11:00AM

£6.50

NCC has teamed up with Wee Bookworms to bring a storybookthemed fun morning of creativity, imagination and film.

3-10 & PARENTS/GUARDIANS







#### WALL-E + ARTS WORKSHOP

BALLYNAFEIGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, BELFAST

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2:00PM - 4:00PM

£4

Enjoy a screening of Wall-E, a family favourite exploring ecological themes through solarpunk cinema. After the film, young attendees can join a handson workshop to build their own robots, followed by a short quiz on science in sci-fi.

**ALL AGES** 

ART + SCIENCE



## THE SCIENCE OF PARKINSON'S

NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY CINEMA

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2:00PM - 5:00PM

£6

Dr. Mihalis Doumas explores improving life for Northern Ireland's Parkinson's community through dance and more. Then, enjoy Awakenings (1990), a powerful film about a neurologist's quest to revive patients from catatonia with a Parkinson's drug.

18+

MIND + BODY



#### MAGICAL SOUNDS WITH ECHO TA TA & FRIENDS

IMMERSIVE STORY EXPERIENCE

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 4:00PM

£10

Join Therapeutic Sound Practitioner Tessa Ann for *Magical Sounds*, an immersive audio-visual journey in the Armagh Planetarium Dome.

**ALL AGES** 

MIND + BODY

# A GIANT MACHINE THE CASTLE WARD CORN MILL

CASTLE WARD CORN MILL, STRANGFORD

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

FREE WITH ENTRY
INTO CASTLE WARD

Discover the Castle Ward Corn Mill, where a centuries-old machine transforms grain into flour. Powered by the 18th-century Temple Water, this sustainable technology showcases its workings for all to see and hear. Join us to witness how this 19th-century mill continues to operate today!

**ALL AGES** 

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 



# SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

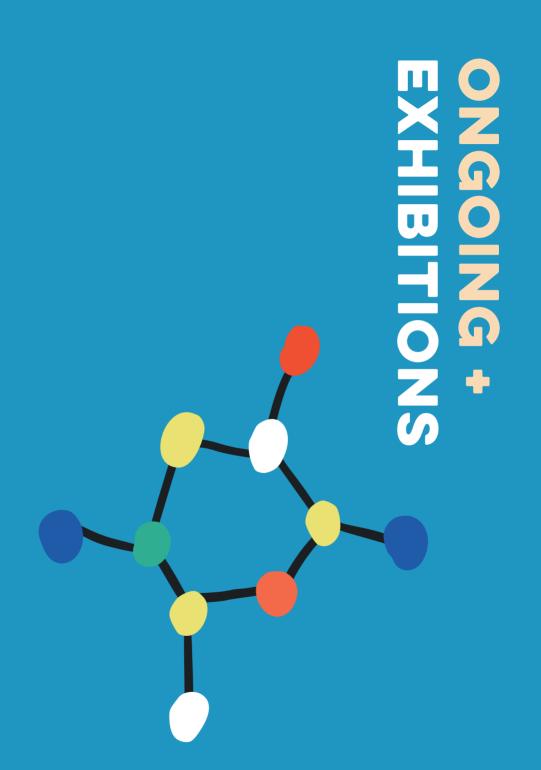
Wild Ireland - Past, Present, Future	10AM	Belfast
NI Orienteering @ Armagh Planetarium	10AM	Armagh
Slieve Gullion Geo-Hike	10AM	Newry
Mimi's Space Adventure	10AM	Derry / Londonderry
Wee Storybook to Film	11AM	Newcastle
Grace's Historic Machines	11AM & 2PM	Cultra
Open Sound Lab	12PM	Belfast
The Big Maths Game Show with Kyle Evans!	12:30PM	Belfast
A Giant Machine - The Castle Ward Corn Mill	1РМ	Strangford
McConnell's Whisky: A Guided Pairing with Ireland's Finest Cheeses	1PM	Belfast
Foraging Afloat	1:30PM	Killinchy
Wall-E + Arts Workshop	2PM	Belfast
The Science of Parkinson's	2PM	Newcastle
A History of Ireland in Ten Body Parts	2:30PM	Belfast
For Peats Sake : with Lucy Lapwing and RSPB NI	3РМ	Belfast
Magical Sounds with Echo Ta Ta & Friends	4PM	Armagh













# KUBO THE ROBOT

LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT NI ONGOING THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL

TIME: CHECK WEBSITE FREE

Join this interactive session in libraries across Northern Ireland during half term! Learn coding basics through a fun game that

basics through a fun game that helps KUBO navigate his way to school, play football, and visit the shops.

6-10 & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

**ENGINEERING + ROBOTICS** 



#### **NISF X LUMI**

QUEEN'S FILM THEATRE, BELFAST

DATE: VARIOUS
TIME: VARIOUS
ADMISSION: VARIOUS

Join the LUMI Programmers at NISF for a selection of unforgettable films that explore the worlds of science-fact and science-fiction.

Chosen by Queen's Film Theatre's passionate young programming team of 18-26 year olds, the full lineup and tickets are available on the QFT website.

8+

ART + SCIENCE

#### OUR STORY, OUR CITY, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

**VARIOUS** 

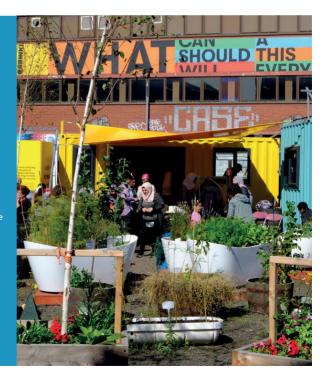
WED 12TH, THUR 13TH, WED 19TH & THURS 20TH 6:30PM

FREE

What you DO makes a difference! 4 evenings across North, South, East & West Belfast, aiming to bring together community members, thought leaders, policymakers, and sustainability advocates for an engaging, dynamic discussion on how we can build a more sustainable future. The event will explore critical areas of our daily lives—Eat, Live, Wear, Waste, Power, and Travel—and foster collaboration to drive actionable change in our city.

16+

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



# FRAMES OF INNOVATION

NORTH WEST TRANSPORT HUB. **DERRY~LONDONDERRY** 

**ONGOING THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL** 

TIME: CHECK HUB **OPENING TIMES.** 

FREE

In partnership with Translink Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive presents a captivating audiovisual display at Derry~Londonderry train station. Featuring footage from Derry~Londonderry, Strabane, and farming, and science. Celebrate the region's STEM heritage through stunning archival footage. www.digitalfilmarchive.net

**ALL AGES** 



**Translink** 







#### **MATHS EXPLORERS AT ULSTER MUSEUM**

**ULSTER MUSEUM** 

**ONGOING THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL** 

TIME: CHECK WEBSITE

FREE

Calling all "Mini Maths Explorers" to join us for a free trail around the Ulster Museum. Pick up a "Maths Explorers" map at the reception desk and follow our trail around 10 stops- completing maths problems as you go!

**4-9 AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS** 

MATHS



#### **A NEW ESTATE**

**VAULT ARTIST STUDIOS GALLERY, BELFAST** 

**ONGOING THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL** 

10:00AM - 6:00PM **FREE** 

An interactive installation exploring the lives of young working-class men in post-Brexit, post-pandemic Belfast. Created in Unreal Engine, it addresses masculinity, body image, sexuality, and gender, using colloquial language to reflect local concerns and experiences of young men.

**ALL AGES** 

#### WILD IRELAND: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

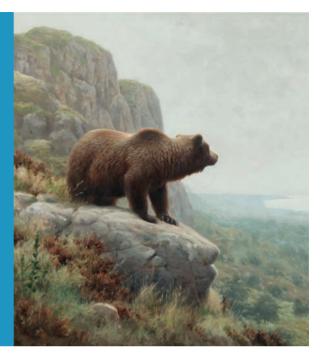
ULSTER MUSEUM, BELFAST FROM FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 10:00AM - 5:00PM (CLOSED MONDAYS)

#### FREE

Explore the rich history of Ireland's flora and fauna in this exhibition by artist Julian Friers and Ulster Museum curator Dr. Mike Simms.

#### **ALL AGES**

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 





# AFTERWARDS AN EXHIBITION BY TRACY MCCOEY

ARTISANN GALLERY, BELFAST ONGOING THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL (CLOSED MON & TUES)

11:00AM - 5:30PM

#### **FREE**

Afterwards is an installation by Tracy McCoey, showcasing a mini Victorian museum with faux artefacts depicting a post-climate catastrophe world.

#### **ALL AGES**

ART + SCIENCE



# LOVE IS IN THE FUR

CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK, KILBRONEY FOREST PARK, DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK & SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK

MON 10 - SUN 16 FEBRUARY

TIME(S): PARK OPENING HOURS

#### FREE

Fall head over heels for our furry friends! Go on a wild mammal scavenger hunt, tracking paw prints and clues of their presence nearby and discover the winter survival tales of foxes, badgers, mice and squirrels.

6-10 & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

**ENVIRONMENT + NATURE** 



#### THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE RIVER LAGAN

THE BELFAST BARGE, LAGANSIDE

TUESDAY TO SATURDAY (CONTACTING THE BARGE AHEAD OF YOUR VISIT IS ADVISABLE)

10:00AM - 4:00PM

#### **FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME**

Discover the River Lagan's heritage at The Greatest Story Never Told on the Belfast Barge. This interactive exhibition explores Belfast's engineering and scientific innovations.

#### **ALL AGES**

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION



### FUTURE ISLAND **COLLECTION OF EVENTS**

VENUE: VARIOUS - SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

DATE: ONGOING THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL

ADMISSION:

**SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS** 

Future Island-Island is delighted to announce a variety of events both on Rathlin Island and across the region as part of the Northern Ireland Science Festival. Future Island-Island is an AHRC funded project that brings together community members, academics, and participants to co-create design-led research for a greener, more sustainable Northern Ireland economy.

To learn more about Future Island-Island, visit our website at https:// www.futureisland-island.org/

**ALL AGES** 

# 360° SCIENCE ON RATHLIN ISLAND

**VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON RATHLIN ISLAND** 

TIME: SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

**FREE - REGISTRATION REQUIRED** SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

#### FREE

Whether you're a family looking for a day trip, a couple wanting a Valentine's wanting to dive into a world of culture and lore, Rathlin Island off the north coast has the perfect programme packed with 360° of science.

Just a short ferry ride away lies an island full of lighthouses, bushcraft, photography workshops, arts and crafts, and marine activities for the whole family. There will be talks and walks from islanders and visiting scientists, along with plenty of kids'

#### **FAMILIES**



# NO PLANET B ROADSHOW MON 10TH FEB: DERRY (FOYLESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE) TUES 11TH FEB: DERRY (FOYLESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE) WED 12TH FEB: DUNGANNON (HILL OF THE O'NEILL AND RANFURLY HOUSE) THURS 13TH FEB: BELFAST (THE MAC) FRI 14TH FEB: BELFAST (THE MAC) 10:00AM - 4:00PM FREE Join the Armagh Observatory & Planetarium and Queen's researchers as they tour five locations, screening short films in a portable dome. Explore urban environments' impact on health, climate change effects, and the importance of protecting Earth, our fifth largest planet. SCIENCE COMMUNICATION ONGOING + EXHIBITIONS

#### **MATHS MILE**

BELFAST & DERRY-LONDONDERRY ONGOING THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL

#### TIME: CHECK WEBSITE

#### **FREE**

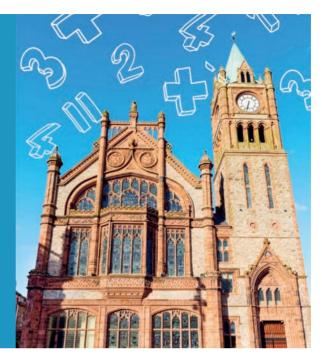
Maths is everywhere! Join us for a maths filled mile around Belfast & Derry~Londonderry City Centre stopping at the perfect spots to do some problem solving with your family. Explore the city centre through your mathematical minds any time during the festival.

We've worked with clever mathematicians to make sure that these problems are perfect for primary school children. Take a picture of your completed map and email it to belfastmathsmile@gmail.com to be in for a chance to win a prize!

6-10 & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

MATHS + PHYSICS

#### matrix.





# THE CLEAN BLUE OF LINEN

BELFAST EXPOSED, BELFAST ONGOING THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL (CLOSED SUN & MON)

11:00AM - 5:00PM

#### FREE

Artist Yvette Monahan's year-long journey to capture the flax growing and production process at Mallon Farm has been a testament to the beauty and significance of this age-old tradition, bringing it to life through the seasons. In collaboration with The Gaia Foundation's campaign "We Feed The UK".

#### **ALL AGES**

**ART + SCIENCE** 

# SCHOOLS + EDUCATORS

DISCOVER MORE:

Discover our vibrant Schools & Educators programme, packed with over 40 exciting events designed to ignite curiosity and inspire learning. With activities tailored to all Key Stages and abilities, there's something for every student to enjoy.

From hands-on workshops to expert-led talks, explore innovative ways to bring science to life and enrich the classroom experience.





# Spotlight on YOUNG WOMEN IN STEM

#### **Contact the Careers Service**

The Department for the Economy's Careers Service provides free, professional and impartial careers advice and guidance to help you make informed choices about your future career.

If you would like to discuss your options, please contact the **Careers Service**:

- \_by phone on **0300 200 7820**
- via webchat
- \_using the Ask Careers Form
- \_in person at one of the local careers offices









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