

ELEMENTS



of

#EDSCIFEST

Elements of #EdSciFest: Edinburgh Science Festival goes digital!

- **Elements of #EdSciFest is a digital reiteration of Edinburgh Science Festival 2020, now cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- **Elements of #EdSciFest draws on the original 2020 theme for the Festival, *Elementary*, which used the ancient classifications of Earth, Fire, Water, Air and Aeaather as lenses to look at the challenges and opportunities facing the planet.**
- **Featuring dozens of free content items such as videos, Facebook Lives, blog posts, Q&As, online challenges and downloadable assets, Elements of #EdSciFest is the perfect opportunity to get hands-on with science at home, regardless of age.**
- **Elements of #EdSciFest is live on sciencefestival.co.uk at 10am on Saturday 4 April with further events and assets to be added by 11 April. All content will be available online until normal service resumes.**
- **Some of the highlights include live streamed talks from Claudia Hammond, Marcus Chown and Ilan Kelman, downloadable dinosaur craft activities, an online photo exhibition celebrating Scotland's Coasts and Waters and a takeover of the Earth Live Lessons YouTube series.**

www.sciencefestival.co.uk / [@EdSciFest](https://twitter.com/EdSciFest) / www.facebook.com/EdinburghScienceFestival

Edinburgh Science team is pleased to reveal **Elements of #EdSciFest**, an ambitious free online programme of science videos, Facebook Lives, blogs, downloadable activities, Q&As, online challenges and more to keep sci-curious minds busy at home.

Being the world's first and still Europe's largest science festival, Edinburgh Science Festival has a wealth of experience in creating fun, engaging science content. *Elements of #EdSciFest* is set to be a fantastic resource for people of all ages confined to their homes and with many parents trying their hand at home-schooling.

Drawing on the ***Elementary*** theme of the Edinburgh Science Festival 2020, this wide-ranging project is a digital reiteration of the Festival which had to be cancelled in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the face of these unprecedented challenges, the Festival has called on its speakers and partner organisations to put together an exciting and innovative digital programme.

The content of the *Elements of #EdSciFest* programme explores science's role in addressing the biggest global environmental challenges through five strands – **Air, Earth, Fire, Water** and **Aether**, the latter representing the digital world.

Each element provides a different way of looking at some of the challenges and opportunities facing humanity. The **All Fired Up** strand focuses on how we tackle the climate crisis with the urgency it requires. **One Earth** explores the circular and sharing economies, tackles our extinction crisis and looks at ways we can feed the world on a global scale. **The Air We Breathe** looks into air pollution and fuel alternatives that will help bring clean air to as many people as possible. **Water for Life** dives into our relationship with rivers and oceans and the protection they need from exploitation. Finally, **Aether / Go Digital** looks at the power we hold at our fingertips, the potential solutions that technology holds to our problems and the issues that might arise from it.

The Festival's outdoor photography exhibition, **Into the Blue**, is now being brought indoors and on to our screens for everyone to enjoy from home. Every day the Festival is uploading a new picture from the exhibition on to their Instagram, taking users on a fascinating journey around some of Scotland's most remarkable coastlines with stunning photography from local artists.

Online content will include a **series of short science videos covering a huge range of topics**. These have been filmed by speakers who were originally planned to appear at the Science Festival, along with some special new additions who were keen to get involved following the cancellation announcement.

Live-streamed content will include talks from broadcaster **Claudia Hammond** on the importance of rest in our fast-moving world, science writer **Marcus Chown** on the vast complexities of the Universe and **Professor Ilan Kelman** on how the majority of natural disasters are created or exacerbated by human choices.

Dr Raj Persaud brings back his TEDX and podcasts exploring themes such as seduction, pandemics and happiness.

60 Seconds Science series sees, among others, Prof Nick Jelly talking on renewable energy, Prof Ilan Kelman explaining why most natural disasters are human-made, Pragma Arwal taking on unconscious bias, Prof Geraint Lewis and Dr Luke Barnes presenting *The Cosmic Revolutionary's Handbook* and Jan Hodel shining light on his work in brewing and distilling.

Very Short Introduction To.... series also continues online with 10 different science topics.

Elsewhere, **The University of Edinburgh** have prepared a range of videos exploring issues around climate change. Also, **Digital World** (Skills Development Scotland) are sharing a range of digital workshops and online learning with fun tasks challenging audiences to *Defend a Hospital* and *Steal a Pizza*.

Instead of the *Dinosaur Weekend* that was planned for children at the Pleasance, the Festival has designed a **series of dinosaur crafts that kids can download and make at home**. Plus, two events that were planned for the Festival's flagship family venue, the City Art Centre, will now take place in digital form as part of an **Edinburgh Science takeover of the popular [Earth Live Lessons YouTube series](#)**. On 10 and 11 April, viewers can livestream talks focused on our amazing oceans and Scottish wildlife.

National Space Academy, originally involved in *Exploring Space Science*, presents a series of events for the space-curious. These include demo videos with Tim Peake, first British European Space Agency astronaut to visit the International Space Station, a virtual tour of the Science and Technology Facilities Council including space rocks brought from Apollo missions, online library of the National Space Centre, a series of short videos in which team

from the National Space Centre answers questions from the public via social media and a TEDX talk from Kierann Shah on how space can save the world.

Through a series of This Is Engineering short videos as well as STEM teacher resources from the **Royal Academy of Engineering**, the young minds get a chance to have a closer look at engineering careers and the difference they make in the world. Also exploring the world of engineering is ***This Book Thinks You're An Inventor*** by Jon Milton and Harriet Russell. Elements of #EdSciFest presents colourful and simple one-page engineering challenges and activities that can be done at home.

For Minecraft fans, **Society of Antiquaries** present ***Crafting the Past***, a website which digitally recreates sites in Minecraft, enabling audiences to discover Scotland's history, heritage and archaeology, including free to download maps.

Amanda Tyndall, Festival and Creative Director at Edinburgh Science, said:

“Two weeks ago, we made the sad but necessary decision to cancel the Edinburgh Science Festival due to the global spread of COVID-19, but it takes more than lockdown to keep us down!

We've reached out to our partners, participants and supporters, wracked our brains and trawled our archives and I'm delighted to announce that our online offering, *Elements of #EdSciFest*, will launch on 4 April.

Using the ancient classifications of Earth, Air, Fire and Water and Aether to explore how science can help address some of the biggest challenges and opportunities facing us as individuals, societies and as a planet, we'll bring you talks, reading lists, film recommendations, curated articles, downloadable resources and a selection of 'live' events that help ensure that everyone – from kids, parents and teachers to the just generally sci-curious – can get still get some science this Easter.”

/ENDS

Notes to editors:

Facebook: @EdinburghScienceFestival

Twitter: @EdSciFest

Instagram: @edscifest

#EdSciFest

sciencefestival.co.uk

Images from the programme launch photo call available here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c7dg9xy8vj2wmti/AAB_676bL_S3EK3tLswYBrWka?dl=0

Event images available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cynsj15umebps2k/AACsKHdL-PPmxZdAKSwBAQNRa?dl=0>

Edinburgh Science Festival, founded in 1989, is an educational charity that aims to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to discover the world around them.

Each year it delivers the UK's largest Science Festival with almost 270 events for families and adults over the course of two weeks. Its vibrant and varied programmes include everything from fun family days out to talks and discussions from pioneering thinkers. Family festivalgoers can enjoy five floors of sensational science at City Art Centre, talks with world-famous scientists at the Pleasance and a host of hands-on activities and more at the National Museum of Scotland and other partner venues across Edinburgh.

The 2019 Science Festival recorded 179,000 attendances over the two-week period. The Science Festival programme is a mix of workshops, shows, discussions and interactive events. Edinburgh Science Festival's flagship venue at City Art Centre features workshops for ages 5-12 and is visited by around 10,000 children and families during its live dates.

The 2020 Science Festival was the 32nd edition of the Edinburgh Science Festival and due to take place from 4 to 19 April 2020.

Alongside the annual festival in Edinburgh, the organisation has a strong focus on education and runs a touring programme that visits schools around Scotland throughout the year. For more information on Edinburgh Science Learning click [here](#).

With 30 years of experience in creating high quality and engaging science events, Edinburgh Science is a world leader in its field. Alongside its core activities in Scotland, the charity also operates internationally. For more information on Edinburgh Science Worldwide click [here](#).

For further information, interviews or photos please contact Magda Paduch at The Corner Shop PR: magda@thecornershoppr.com / 0758 316 4070.