



EDINBURGH SCIENCE

Sacha Dench, 'The Human Swan', visits Edinburgh ahead of her appearance at Edinburgh Science Festival

- Sacha Dench, conservationist, adventurer and motivational speaker, famous for flying 7000km by paramotor from Arctic Russia across 11 countries to the UK to help save the Bewick's swan, visits Edinburgh ahead of her talk as part of Edinburgh Science Festival 2021.
- *In Conversation with Sacha Dench* will be presented digitally as part of the 2021 Festival on 3 July at 7.30pm.
- Full Edinburgh Science Festival 2021 programme is announced at 10am on Wednesday, 26 May.



Sacha Dench on Royal Mile, Edinburgh. Credit Ian Georgeson

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‘The Human Swan’ - an inspiring conservationist, adventurer and motivational speaker Sacha Dench visited Edinburgh today to film her talk for the upcoming Edinburgh Science Festival. ***In Conversation with Sacha Dench* will take place digitally at 7.30pm on 3 July** and is the first event to be announced as part of this year’s Edinburgh Science Festival. The event signals the Festival’s strong focus on climate crisis and other challenges our Planet is facing as we near COP26 in Glasgow later in the year.

Full programme of this year’s Science Festival is announced at 10am on Wednesday, 26 May.

Most famous for ***Flight of the Swans*** - flying **7000km (or 4300 miles) by paramotor from the Russian Arctic to the UK** in a bid to find out why the **Bewick’s swans**, the continent’s smallest and most threatened swan species, were declining so fast and to generate public support for the cause - Sacha Dench’s talk will focus on some of the environmental challenges our Planet is facing as well as the power of audacious goals. Her famous *Flight*, which saw her braving thunderstorms and polar bears, won her and her team **ENDS Environmental Campaign of the Year and helped end the 20 year species decline.**

Sacha is a true adventurer and explorer. She is **UN Ambassador for Migratory Species**, founder of [Conservation Without Borders](#) as well as volunteer group **Eco Divers**, a recipient of the coveted **Britannia Trophy** (2018, not won by a woman since 1967), a **Woman of the Year 2017** – joining a line-up of inspirational women including Professor Mary Beard and actor Nicole Kidman – and she also holds the record for the **First Channel Crossing by Paramotor** for a woman. She is also an experienced **free diver and a cave diver** who has **beaten the world record for breath hold (6 minutes 22 seconds)** in a training session.

Sacha’s Conservation without Borders launched ***Round Britain Climate Challenge*** in 2020, a high-profile and high-impact climate crisis campaign designed to inspire and involve the whole nation to make a real difference. The campaign will not only showcase the devastating impact of climate crisis all over Britain but, more importantly, record and raise the profile of people and projects that are our technological and natural solutions to the crisis and shift the public narrative from overwhelmed to inspirational. For more information on the Challenge visit this [Crowdfunder page](#).

Sacha Dench said: “It’s great to be back in Edinburgh and taking part in the Science Festival. By the time this interview broadcasts I will be in the middle of my attempt to circumnavigate Britain in a newly-developed electric paramotor, in the run up to COP26. Scotland is going to be the dramatic grand finale, with Scotland seemingly leading the way on climate solutions there will be some of the most incredible people to speak to, and the most dramatic landscapes to fly over!”

Amanda Tyndall, Creative Director of Edinburgh Science Festival said: “With COP26 on the horizon and a pressing need to draw attention to the plight of the planet we are delighted to welcome Sacha back to the Edinburgh Science Festival. Her feats of adventure and exploration are an amazing way of capturing the public’s attention on crucial issues for climate and conservation and Sacha is nothing less than inspirational.”

The 2021 Edinburgh Science Festival takes place between 26 June and 11 July 2021 and is themed around *One World: Science Connects Us*, exploring how we are all connected – to each other, to Planet Earth and to the wider Universe. Full Festival programme launch will take place on 26 May.

/ENDS

Images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2m7u1a9t67o6m9c/AACn36POusHn9pjLG71weFEya?dl=0>

Sacha Dench's TED Talk *The Human Swan*:

https://www.ted.com/talks/sacha_dench_the_human_swan

Sacha Dench's Show Reel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWncztpNP6E&t=118s>

Edinburgh Science

Edinburgh Science, founded in 1989, is an educational charity that aims to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to discover the world around them. The organisation is best known for organising Edinburgh's annual Science Festival: the world's first festival of science and technology and still one of Europe's largest.

The two-week Festival provides wide and diverse audiences with amazing science-themed experiences through a diverse programme of innovative events for adults and families. Alongside the annual Festival in Edinburgh, the organisation has a strong focus on education, running a touring programme, *Generation Science*, that brings science to life for primary schools around Scotland throughout the year, and running an annual *Careers Hive* event which promotes STEM careers to young people.

After programming on the themes of climate change and the environment for many years, in 2019 Edinburgh Science awarded the Edinburgh Medal to Christiana Figueres, the inspirational Costa Rican diplomat instrumental in the Paris Climate agreement. Inspired by this visit, Edinburgh Science established the Climate Opportunity Ideas Factory, a forum for all sectors to come together and generate collaborative actionable ideas that accelerate our transition to a zero-carbon world.

Edinburgh Science also shares its content and expertise internationally through Edinburgh Science Worldwide and operates a large-scale international programme of work. It regularly presents events overseas and is currently the Major Programming Partner of the annual Abu Dhabi Science Festival, helping to curate, produce and deliver the event. For international partners, the team at Edinburgh Science provide engaging content, curatorial advice on programming and business planning support, along with expert staff and training for local science communicators.

www.sciencefestival.co.uk

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