

Edinburgh Science Festival wraps up its 2022 Revolutionary edition and looks forward to getting Experimental in 2023



Clockwise from top left: big data interactive exhibition DataSphere at the National Museum of Scotland; Festival and Creative Director Amanda Tyndall leads the Revolution at this year's Festival; Splat-tastic, one of the most popular children workshops at City Art Centre; Edinburgh Medallist 2022, Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka; Dig Up a Dino this Easter holidays at City Art Centre; Festival Team member Susie Gray highlights the climate crisis for Earth Day; schools photography competition winner Carson Rowe with his winning image; Make Do and Mend at an interactive, free exhibition Consumed on The Mound.

www.sciencefestival.co.uk

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Photo call images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/05zjoeu0thc5fft/AABaZOgcHMM-mRdf9UZ4xh-Oa?dl=0>

Festival images:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1WbG1LvGJO7rAh_yepam4vNiCYeL9YhIk1

With hundreds of sci-curious minds of all ages slipping into the Revolutionary orbit of 2022 Edinburgh Science Festival – world’s first science festival – the event now draws to a close, having delivered a fantastic and ambitious programme of live workshops, Big Ideas discussions, free interactive exhibitions and many more, over half of which was free to experience. This year’s edition engaged with 32 fantastic partner organisations from Scotland and wider UK and gave a platform to a range of inspiring speakers, over half of whom were women.

Following a challenging period, the Festival has truly come back with a bang, doing what it does best – live, hands-on science-based experiences for everyone!

The 2022 edition was themed around **Revolutions**, focusing on revolutionary approaches to everything from personal to planetary health – and with an unashamed emphasis on the urgency of tackling the climate crisis.

With **Cirrus Logic as its Headline Sponsor** and with **matched funding from Culture & Business Fund Scotland**, the Festival also celebrated 50 years since James Lovelock first referred to his revolutionary Gaia hypothesis in print – drawing public attention to the interconnectedness of the delicate ecological cycles essential to sustaining life on Earth.

Amanda Tyndall, Festival and Creative Director at Edinburgh Science said: “Delivering live events is in our blood and what we love doing most so we were ecstatic to be able to share *Revolutions* with our audiences.

“Seeing the rapt faces of our audiences as they heard from some of the biggest thinkers in science and the joy of young people getting hands-on with our exhibitions and workshops makes all the hard work worth it. Thank you to all our sponsors and partners for all their invaluable support. We are already planning what next year has in store so watch this space!”

Its flagship family venue, **City Art Centre**, enthused thousands of young minds who had a chance to dig up dinosaur fossils, make their own slime, code a robot, perform a surgery or become a conservationist. **Big Ideas discussions** for adults welcomed world-renowned scientists to the Scottish capital – from author and broadcaster **Prof. Jim Al-Khalili**, philosopher and author **A.C. Grayling**, climate activist and author **Alice Bell** and Edinburgh Medal recipient and conservationist, **Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka**.

Audience favourite, **sociable events at the Festival** featured eco-cocktails, phenomenal fungi and exclusive after-hours access to National Museum of Scotland and City Art Centre, getting everyone inspired to awake their inner sci-curiousity and help fight the climate crisis.

Similar to previous years, the Festival delivered a fantastic range of free, interactive exhibitions – highlighting overconsumption, **Consumed** on The Mound, exploring the pros and cons of big data, **DataSphere** at the National Museum of Scotland, and large-scale photography exhibition showing the beauty of **Wild Scotland**, located on Portobello Promenade – all aiming to encourage audiences to change their everyday behaviours and join the science revolution.

Combining the worlds of STEM and arts, the Festival also showcased the many fascinating facets of **STEAM** through art displayed at Summerhall, National Museum of Scotland and City Art Centre, including **Elemental**, interactive artwork looking at ancient elements, and **Silent Chaos** who transformed the Museum’s Grand Gallery into a bespoke information collector, gathering data from the people visiting and the activities occurring there.

As per every year, the Festival also engaged with a range of partner organisations, community groups and delegates. The **Edinburgh Science Delegate Programme** held 12 events and created exclusive digital content, all of which were designed to spark ideas and connections,

welcoming those who are just starting out in their careers as well international visitors from like-minded organisations, in hope that the conversations continue into 2022 and beyond.

The Festival team also worked closely with **community groups from across Edinburgh** - including North Edinburgh, Wester Hailes, Niddrie - restoring the confidence needed to embrace family days out after the isolation of the last two years, removing barriers to access and inspiring ongoing participation in arts and STEM activities across the city long after the Science Festival has ended. This included providing free travel and access to Festival venues and events. The project was met with a great response and the team plans to develop it to be included in Edinburgh Science's year-round events and opportunities.

Similar to previous years, the **Festival engaged with many primary schools** – 440 Edinburgh primary school children visited City Art Centre, thanks to support from Baillie Gifford. Also, various Scottish primary schools took part in a photography competition as part of *Wild Scotland*, and with over 80 stunning submissions, Carson Rowe from Ayrshire took the trophy with his image entitled *Where next?*

Edinburgh Science Festival 2023

2023 Edinburgh Science Festival will take place from 1 to 16 April and embrace the concepts of experimentation, innovation, creativity, curiosity and invention that lie at the heart of all scientific and creative disciplines, with an overall theme and call to action of *Let's Experiment*.

Experiments test theories (or call for new ones!) and provide the basis for expanding our scientific knowledge and evidence base. Experimentation is a crucial part of innovation, and creative thinking across disciplines is essential if we are to harness the opportunities, and deal with the potential perils and pitfalls of our rapidly changing world.

Bringing together innovators - scientists, engineers and practitioners from across the spectrum of the arts - and showcasing the work of the 'experimenters' working on the cutting-edge of science, technology, engineering and design, the 2023 Festival will celebrate the spirit of adventure, enquiry and experimentation, which all push the frontiers of our knowledge about ourselves, the world around us and our place in the wider universe.

/ENDS

Notes to editors:

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

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

Festival Supporters:

The Scottish Government supports the Edinburgh Science Festival this year through Festivals Expo Fund (£130,000) and Platforms for Creative Excellence Programme (£177,333), both administered by Creative Scotland. Up to £1.75 million will be made available to the Edinburgh Festivals in the form of a top-up to the Platforms for Creative Excellence Programme and is subject to an ongoing application process.

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