



Sidmouth Science Festival

4-13
October 24

Sparking curiosity about the world of science
Explore, learn, enjoy!

PROGRAMME

Super Science Saturday - FREE Family Day
Norman Lockyer Observatory Family Day
Biodiversity Geology Robots Workshops Talks
Film Walks Artificial Intelligence Learning



Sidmouth Science Festival

www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

email: info@sidmouthsciencefestival.org





Welcome to the 2024 Sidmouth Science Festival

Sidmouth Science Festival began in 2012 with a weekend of events and now stretches over ten days, becoming one of Sidmouth's most popular festivals. Our purpose is to inform, inspire, promote and advance public education in scientific disciplines, showing how they impact on our everyday lives. Our focus is on the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and maths, showing how they play a vital part in many things we take for granted. We have events suitable for all but, in particular, aim to attract those who would not normally engage with science subjects. And it's not all about learning! There's plenty of fun and entertainment packed into the programme. We hope you enjoy the festival.

Science Festival Team

MORE INFORMATION

The festival website shows the current information about all festival events. It is also the place to go for bookings where required. Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre will assist with bookings if necessary.



DONATIONS

The majority of festival events are free of charge. We are generously supported by a number of sponsors however we need additional income to cover all our costs. Please make a donation if you are able. There are cash collection containers at all venues and a card machine is usually available. You can also donate via our website. Thank you.

Sidmouth Science Festival is a registered charity: no. 1168115.



CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION



4 – 11 Oct at Kennaway House
Sat & weekdays 10am – 4pm
Sun 5 Oct 10am – 12pm

Each year, local schools are invited to involve their pupils in creating themed artworks for display during the festival.

They will be on display all week and we look forward to seeing how the children interpret this year's topical theme: **THINGS WE THROW AWAY.**



FILM & PANEL DISCUSSION: SIX INCHES OF SOIL

Fri 4 Oct 7pm – 9:45pm
All Saints Church Hall
Free event, donations welcome
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Join us for a special film screening and panel discussion. Be inspired by the 96-minute film that tells the story of passionate young British farmers dedicated to growing food that heals the soil, improves our health, and strengthens local communities.

Afterwards, agroecologist, Dr. Emma Pilgrim, will lead a panel discussion with four Devon-based farmers and food producers.

Enjoy delicious samples of locally produced food and drink.



SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY

FREE FAMILY DAY 5 OCTOBER 10:30AM – 4:30PM

TOWN CENTRE EVENTS

Venues:

- Kennaway House (information point)
- Sidmouth Parish Church
- Sid Vale Association HQ

Experience an action-packed day of scientific discovery and hands-on fun, perfect for curious minds of all ages. Explore the fascinating worlds of Chemistry, Physics, Maths, and Engineering, and unleash your creativity with make and take-home projects.

Learn about:

- Aeroplanes
- Kites
- Electric motors
- Light
- Bubbles
- Fungi
- And more!

Complete the dinosaur card and have a go at the town centre chemical element treasure hunt and maybe win a prize!



GEOLOGY HUB

All Saints Church & Church Hall

Discover the wonders of geology during Super Science Saturday! Immerse yourself in fascinating talks and a variety of engaging activities for the whole family. Explore a world of fossils, interactive games, and microscope displays of rock samples. Experts are on hand to share insights and answer questions.

Four, hourly, geology-themed talks by leading professionals start in the church from 11:00am.

No need to book and free of charge, though donations are welcome.



EXPLORE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & MACHINE LEARNING

Sunday 6 Oct 2pm – 5pm

Cellar Bar, Kennaway House

BOOKING RECOMMENDED if attending all 3 talks

An afternoon dedicated to the revolutionary and rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies and how they are shaping our future. Covering the essentials, healthcare applications and ethical issues, the session is aimed at people new to AI and ML or those curious to build on their current knowledge.



FRONTIERS OF HEALTH

Monday 7 Oct 2pm – 5pm
Cellar Bar, Kennaway House

An insightful afternoon of talks offering valuable perspectives on the past, present, and future of healthcare. The three speakers will discuss cutting-edge brain health research, evidence of the effects of aging on our muscles, and a critical examination of historical racism in medicine and medical education.

DATE	TIME	VENUE	DETAILS	TYPE
4 - 11 OCT		Kennaway House	Children's Art Exhibition Sat & weekdays 10am – 4pm, Sun 5 10am – 12pm	Event
FRI 4	7pm - 9:45pm	All Saints Church Hall	Film screening Six Inches of Soil & panel discussion BOOKING ESSENTIAL	Event
SATURDAY 5 OCT	10:30am - 4:30pm	Various	SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY	Activities
	11am - 11:45am	All Saints Church	Dr Roger Trend - Lanzarote's geothermal energy: its geological origins & possibilities for electricity generation	Talk
	12pm - 12:45pm	All Saints Church	Prof James Scourse - University of Exeter Reconstructing climate from the longest-lived animals on earth	Talk
	1pm - 1:45pm	All Saints Church	Dr Richard Stockey - University of Southampton Phanerozoic oceans in 3D. What palaeontologists can learn from climate models	Talk
	2pm - 2:45pm	All Saints Church	Kieran Satchell - Lyme Regis Museum. Pliosaurs: Understanding these fearsome prehistoric predators	Talk
SUNDAY 6 OCT	2pm - 2:45pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Dr Mostapha K Heris - Sheffield Hallam University Exploring the Basics of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning Applications	Talk
	3pm - 3:45pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Prof Karen Knapp - University of Exeter AI/ML Assisted Medical Imaging Diagnostics	Talk
	4pm - 5pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Dr Michelle F Bieger - digiLab, Exeter - The ethics of AI: from friendly chatbot to automated systems	Talk
MONDAY 7 OCT	2pm - 3pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Prof Anne Corbett – University of Exeter The PROTECT Study, an opportunity to take part in innovative brain health research	Talk
	3pm - 4pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Dr Ros West - University of Exeter - Faster, higher, stronger, older - What happens to our muscles when we age	Talk
	4pm - 5pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Naabil Khan - University of Exeter The Journey to Justice: Exploring Historical Racism in Medicine and Medical Education	Talk
	7pm - 8:30pm	All Saints Church	Matt & Davinder Gardner - The Faith Experiment - Can a good scientist believe in God? Is faith important in our modern age? <i>In partnership with All Saints Church</i>	Talk
	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Dr Alistair Monteyne - University of Exeter The Fundamentals of Sports Nutrition: Eating to Optimise Performance & Recovery	Talk
TUES 8 OCT	10am - 12pm	Fire Service HQ, Exeter	Visit to the Urban Search and Rescue team BOOKING ESSENTIAL	Visit
	3pm-4.30pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Café Scientifique. Lisa Treseder- Renewable domestic energy <i>In partnership with Institution of Mechanical Engineers</i> Entrance £2.50	Talk

DATE	TIME	VENUE	DETAILS	TYPE
WEDNESDAY 9 OCT	11am - 12pm	Parish Church	Tony Lidington - On Illusion and Delusion: Performative Science and Quackery <i>In partnership with Art Society of Sidmouth</i>	Talk
	2:30pm-3:30pm	All Saints Church Hall	Dr Valentina Marincioni - UCL - Understanding and Managing Moisture in Buildings <i>In partnership with Sidmouth National Trust Supporters Group</i> Entrance £4	Talk
	7pm - 8:30pm	Hatton Wood Room, Kennaway House	Become a Citizen Scientist: you don't need to be an expert! Panel discussion with Prof Clare Wilkinson, Josie-Alice Kirby & Charles Sinclair	Discussion
THUR 10 OCT	2:30pm-3:30pm	Sid Vale Association HQ	Prof Brian Golding - Sidmouth storms of Nov 1824, Nov 1924 & what they mean for Nov 2024 <i>In partnership with the Sid Vale Association</i> Entrance £2.50	Talk
	7:30pm-9pm	Blue Ball Inn, Sidford	Science in the Pub - a sociable evening exploring scientific topics over a drink and/or meal	Discussion
FRIDAY 11 OCT	10:30am-12pm	Start Sidmouth Museum	Geology Walk provided by Sidmouth Museum/SVA	Walk
	2:30pm-3:30pm	Manor Pavilion Theatre	Devon's Pioneering Technologists : A coterie of influential mathematicians & engineers - Colin White <i>In partnership with the Devonshire Association</i> Entrance £3	Talk
	7:30pm-8:30pm	Kennaway House	Martyn Tickner - Is Plastic the Enemy? Addressing the problems of Plastic Waste	Talk
SATURDAY 12 OCT	10am - 11am	Sid Vale Association HQ	Prof Hugh Sinclair - University of Edinburgh How floods determine river landscape with examples from the Himalaya & Scottish Highlands <i>In partnership with Sid Valley Biodiversity Group</i>	Talk
	11:15am - 12:15pm	Sid Vale Association HQ	Graham Roberts - The River Sid-protecting and enhancing a lowland river catchment <i>In partnership with Sid Valley Biodiversity Group</i>	Talk
	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Knapp Orchard	Lyndsey Mahon - Devon Wildlife Trust Introducing Lichens (Field event) - BOOKING ESSENTIAL <i>In partnership with Sid Valley Biodiversity Group</i>	Activity
	3pm - 4pm	Muttersmoor	Fred Rumsey - British Pteridological Society - Fascinating Ferns (Field event) <i>In partnership with Sid Valley Biodiversity Group</i> BOOKING ESSENTIAL	Activity
	11am - 4pm	All Saints Church & Hall	Robot Workshop - many different robot related activities and experiences for all ages	Activities
SUN 13	11am - 4pm	N.L.O.	NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY FAMILY DAY BOOKING RECOMMENDED Entrance: Adults £10, children FREE	Activities & Talks

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE ADA LOVELACE DAY TALK

Tues 8 Oct 3pm – 4.30pm Cellar Bar, Kennaway House

Ada Lovelace Day is an annual event held to celebrate and raise awareness of the contributions of women to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is named after mathematician and computer science pioneer Ada Lovelace (1815-1852). This year's talk will be given by Lisa Treseder on renewable domestic energy. Sponsored by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. **£2.50** on the door, includes hot drink.



CITIZEN SCIENCE: JUST FOR SCIENTISTS?

Wed 9 Oct 7pm – 8:30pm
Hatton Wood Room, Kennaway House

Become a Citizen Scientist: you don't need to be an expert! This evening event explores what citizen science means, hears presentations from three people involved in citizen science projects and invites you to learn about how science can be a community effort.



SCIENCE IN THE PUB

Thurs 10 Oct 7:30pm – 9pm
Blue Ball Inn, Sidford

Join in with this sociable, light-hearted evening of science. Be intrigued by several brief presentations on leading-edge science research and discoveries including magical mushrooms, bird song and climate change. Have a drink or come for a meal beforehand.



BIODIVERSITY DAY

Sat 12 Oct 10am – 4pm



A day of free events for people of all ages to explore and enjoy learning about biodiversity both locally and further afield. There are two river-themed talks at the Sid Vale Association HQ and two field events on lichen and ferns, **both of which must be booked in advance** due to limited capacity.



ROBOT DAY

Sat 12 Oct 11am – 4pm
All Saints Church Hall



The popular Robot Day returns with many different robot and remote control activities and experiences. Sidmouth Robots will be there to help you with the workshop and are joined by visiting robots from the University of the West of England. Free of charge and no need to book.

SIDMOUTH CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

The festival organises a monthly Café Scientifique where speakers are invited to talk about the latest ideas in science and technology followed by a discussion. The format is relaxed and friendly and no previous knowledge is required. The Café meets on the third Tuesday of each month 3pm at the Cellar Bar, Kennaway House. There is a £2.50 charge which includes a hot drink. Dates and forthcoming speaker information can be found on the festival website.

NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY 13 OCT 11AM – 4PM

Entrance: Adults £10 Children FREE

£15 charge applies for Jet Car Building Kit
BOOKING RECOMMENDED



The countdown is on for an unforgettable day at Sidmouth's famous observatory! Build and launch your own rocket, explore the wonders of the telescopes and join a fascinating planetarium show. Don't miss the always-popular jet car building and racing. From learning how helicopters work to captivating storytelling sessions, there's something for everyone.

Join in with:

- Space Detectives
- Planetary Talks
- Workshop - How to make a constellation & tell its story
- Leonardo Helicopters
- NLO History Walks
- And more!
- Devon Science
- Owls R Us

Jasper's Catering available on the day.

CHILDREN

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

SAFEGUARDING

The festival is committed to safeguarding practices that help ensure the safety of children and adults at risk whilst taking part in activities. Our Safeguarding Policy can be found on the festival website. If you have any concerns, please contact 07542 083 749.

PHOTOS & VIDEOS

These will be taken at some events and possibly used for marketing purposes, including social media. If you do not wish to be included please inform the photographer or a steward.

ARRIVAL TIME

Due to limited capacity at some venues, please arrive early to secure a place.

REFRESHMENTS

The festival has not arranged any additional catering or refreshments. Please support local businesses during the week.

NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVAL

10–19 Oct 2025

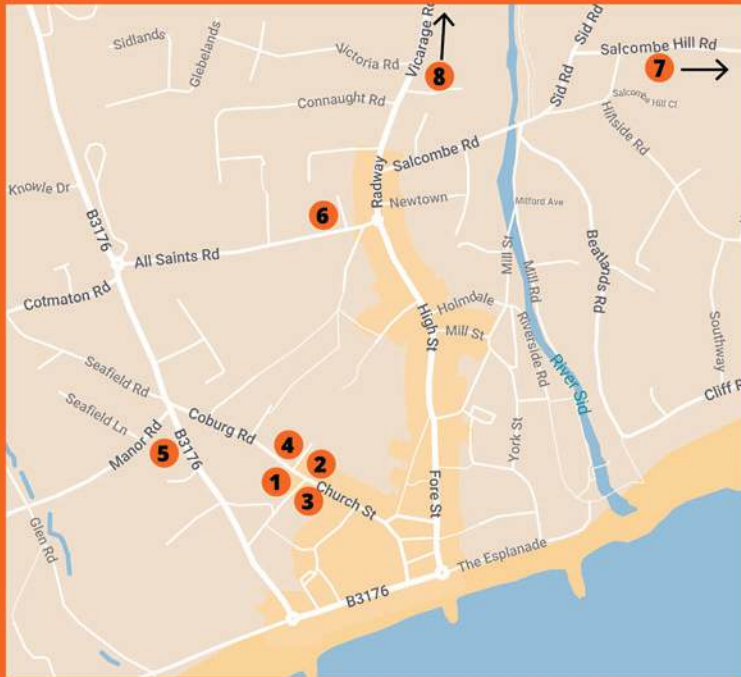
WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

You don't need to be a scientist to support the festival! A small, friendly team of volunteers works year-round to put the festival together. We need help with speaker/event ideas, publicity including social media, admin support and during the festival itself. Interested? Email us at info@sidmouthsciencefestival.org

WHAT DID YOU THINK?

We would love to hear your feedback about the festival and any ideas you have for future events. Please complete a feedback form, on paper or on our website.





- 1. KENNAWAY HOUSE**
Coburg Road EX10 8NG
- 2. SIDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH**
Church Street EX10 8LG
- 3. SVA HEADQUARTERS**
Church Street EX10 8LY
- 4. SIDMOUTH MUSEUM**
Church Street EX10 8LY
- 5. MANOR PAVILION THEATRE**
Manor Road EX10 8RP
- 6. ALL SAINTS CHURCH**
All Saints Road EX10 8ES
- 7. NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY**
Salcombe Hill Road EX10 0NY
- 8. THE BLUE BALL INN**
Sidford EX10 9QL

Many thanks to our sponsors, without them there would be no festival.
We really do appreciate the support you give us.



SIDMOUTH
TOWN COUNCIL



SOLICITORS

**Institution of
MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**



**EXETER
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of Exeter**

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Sidmouth Science Festival

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