



Sidmouth Science Festival

10 -19
October 25

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

PROGRAMME

**Super Science Saturday - FREE Family Day
Norman Lockyer Observatory Family Day
Biodiversity - Talks - Robots - Multi Media**



Sidmouth Science Festival

www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

email: info@sidmouthsciencefestival.org





Welcome to the 2025 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. Some events may be subject to change or cancellation. It is also the place to go for bookings where required. www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org



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 sometimes available. Thank you.

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



DONATE HERE

Norman Lockyer Observatory family day Sunday 19 October 11:00am – 4:00pm (NLO)

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 the Apollo nose cone was designed to captivating storytelling sessions, there's something for everyone.

Join in with:

- Space Detectives
- Fascinating Talks
- Devon Science
- Planetarium – Book on the day
- History Walks
- Owls R Us
- And more!



Entrance charges apply -
Adults £15 Children Free

Children must be accompanied by a
responsible adult.

Booking recommended.
www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

£15 extra cost for Jet car building kit
Booking recommended

Jasper's Catering and Think outside the Box
Coffee available on the day or bring a picnic

SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY

FREE FAMILY DAY 11 OCTOBER 10:30AM – 4:30PM

TOWN CENTRE EVENTS

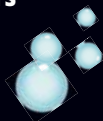
Venues:

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

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, Biology, Maths, and Engineering, and unleash your creativity with make and take-home projects.

Learn about:

- Electric motors
- Chemistry
- Bubbles
- Fungi
- Projectiles
- And more!



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

CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

10 - 18 Oct at Kennaway House
Sat & weekdays 10:00am – 4:00pm

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

This year's theme is **Underwater Wonders**. The artworks will be on display throughout the festival and we look forward to seeing how the children interpret this topical theme.



GEOLOGY HUB

Methodist 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.

11:00am-11:45am The Geological and Archaeological Significance of Beer Quarry Caves by Steve Rodgers

12:00pm-12:45pm The Chalk in Devon by Malcolm Hart

1:00pm-1:45pm An Introduction to Dartmoor's Geology by Josephine Collingwood

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

CHILDREN & ADULTS AT RISK

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. There will be a quiet room available on Super Science Saturday 11 October in Kennaway House and at the Family Day at the Norman Lockyer Observatory on Sunday 19 October.

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 the Safeguarding Lead on 07542 083749

Friday 10 October 2:30pm – 3:30pm Manor Pavilion Theatre

Devon Hedges: Their Wildlife and Management

Tom Hynes, founder member of the Devon Hedges Group will discuss how our hedgerows are a vital part of our countryside, rich in wildlife, steeped in history and essential to the landscape.
Joint session with the Devonshire Association.

Friday 10 October 7:00pm – 9:30pm All Saints Church Hall

Multimedia Event: Hidden Beneath the Waves: Marine Life Communication

Free of charge, donations welcome.

Hidden Beneath the Waves: Marine Life Communication. A multi-media evening exploring ocean life and the deep connections between human and marine life, exploring how the natural world is integral to our survival. Using film, audio, photography and live and pre-recorded speakers we will learn about octopus, whales, dolphins and much more. **Pre-booking essential.** www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

Sunday 12 October 10:00am Sidmouth Parish Church

Professor Penny Endersby, the CEO of the Met Office will be interviewed by the Archdeacon of Exeter during the morning service

The Future of Ageing: Living Better, Living Younger

An insightful afternoon of talks offering valuable perspectives on the future of healthy ageing. The two speakers will discuss how advances in ageing research can inform public health interventions and the development of new medicines which can target the root causes of age-related diseases.

Sunday 12 October 2:00pm – 3:00pm Cellar Bar, Kennaway House

The Splice of Life – Reprogramming Ageing to Treat Chronic Disease – Professor Lorna Harries – Exeter Medical School and SENISCA

Sunday 12 October 3:30pm – 4:30pm Cellar Bar Kennaway House

Patterns in the Population – How Epidemiology can Answer Key Questions on Healthy Ageing – Professor Daniel Davis – UCL

Sunday 12 October 5:00pm Norman Lockyer Observatory

Powers of 10 by David Haines.

Come and listen to an entertaining musical journey via song up through the magnitudes, from human scale to cosmic. **Adults £5 Children free Booking essential**

Monday 13 October 2:00pm – 3:00pm Cellar Bar, Kennaway House

Get to Know Fungus

Good Fungus, Bad Fungus – how fungi have shaped the ancient and modern world
Professor Neil Gow, University of Exeter

Monday 13 October 7:00pm – 8:30pm All Saints Church

Miracles – can God break Science Matt and Davinder Gardner - Joint Session with All Saints Church

Monday 13 October 7:30pm-8:30pm Cellar Bar, Kennaway House

Muscles Don't Retire!

Ageing Related Muscle Loss – What it is and how to slow it down. Dr Alister Monteyne, University of Exeter

Tuesday 14 October 11:00am – 12:30pm Gorst Energy Ltd, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, EX5 1AF Visit to Gorst Energy Biodigester: Discover Renewable Energy in Action

Guided tour of the Gorst Energy Biodigester showing how waste can be turned into clean energy – Free but Booking essential

**Tuesday 14 October 3:00pm – 4:30pm Cellar Bar, Kennaway House
Café Scientifique**

The Festival edition of our monthly Café Scientifique sponsored by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers with Dr Tom Allen, Manchester Metropolitan University, who will talk on Discover the Cutting Edge of Sports Engineering.

£2.50 payable on the door to include a hot drink

**Tuesday 14 October 7:00pm – 9:00pm Cellar Bar, Kennaway House
Understand Cybercrime and stay safe online**



Join us for an evening dedicated to learning about current and future cybersecurity threats which are becoming more sophisticated, common and having a direct impact on our lives. This is an opportunity to hear from experts working on the front line, learn how cybercriminals operate, gain practical advice on how to protect yourself and hear about the challenges facing those working in the industry and the social impact of cybersecurity in an artificial intelligence (AI) driven world.

Ada Lovelace Day is an international, 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 Ada Lovelace Day talk will be given at this event by Roz Woodward from Securious.

**Wednesday 15 October 11:00am – 12:00pm Sidmouth Parish Church
Art Society of Sidmouth Talk**

Leonardo da Vinci: Pathfinder of Science – Guy Rooker

'The utmost fulfilment of Leonardo the scientist is seen in his artistic creations. These reveal the most amazing and inseparable affinity of his scientific and artistic concepts' – Ludwig Heidenreich 1958.

Joint session with the Art Society of Sidmouth

**Wednesday 15 October 2:00pm-3:00pm Cellar Bar, Kennaway House
Perfumery Talk The Disrupters with Jon Brewer – Woodforde's Perfumery**

Jon Brewer examines the (sometimes surprising) role of technology in the past, present and future of perfume production. From Barnsley Gas Works to biotech bacteria, from Moroccan dung pits to 'supercritical' Mars Bars (?)

**Wednesday 15 October 7:30pm – 8:30pm Cellar Bar, Kennaway House
Trees in the Sid Valley - A Decade of Growth: How the Sid Valley's Trees Have Changed
Dr Chris Lockyear - Sidmouth Arboretum**

This talk will explore the status of the Sid Valley trees following the 2024 survey, highlighting what has changed in the past 10 years and the challenges for the future.

**Thursday 16 October 2:30pm – 4:00pm SVA HQ, Church Street
Landscape Recovery in East Devon. What does it mean and can we make the right land use choices to make it happen? Dr Sam Bridgewater – Clinton Devon Estates**

Joint session with the SVA - Entry £2:50

**Thursday 16 October 7:30pm – 9:00pm Blue Ball Inn, Sidford
Science in the Pub**

Join in with this sociable, light-hearted evening of science. Be intrigued by several brief presentations on leading-edge science research and discoveries including how Pitcher plants catch insects, diabetes and dementia and the anatomy of the eye. With the University of Exeter and King's College, London. Have a drink or come for a meal beforehand.

**Friday 17 October 11:00am – 1:00pm Mutter's Moor Car Park
Fungus Foray with Dr Stuart Skeates, Devon Fungus Group
Free but booking essential**

**Friday 17 October 2:00pm – 4:30pm Kennaway Cellar Bar
Book Talks to challenge conventional thinking**
Join our 2 authors at their book launches
How Life Works: The New Biology by Philip Ball
Lost Girls of Autism by Dr Gina Rippon

**Saturday 18 October 10am- 4.30pm SVA HQ
Dobble Challenge**

Come and play a few games of Dobble. For more details and booking visit our website.

**Saturday 18 October 11:00am – 3:00pm Stowford Community Centre
Biodiversity Day – Life on the Hedge**



A day of free events for people of all ages to explore and enjoy learning about biodiversity both locally and further afield. This year the focus is on the importance of hedgerows for wildlife and the environment. Learn about the birds and small mammals that rely on our hedgerow network and the importance of maintaining and enhancing it. See website for further details and booking where required.

www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org Joint session with the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group

**Saturday 18 October 11:00am – 4:00pm St Theresa's Hall
Robot Day**



The popular Robot Day returns with a workshop and chance to meet the robots. 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.

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 other areas.

INTERESTED? EMAIL US AT
info@sidmouthsciencefestival.org

PHOTOS, VIDEOS & SKETCHES

These will be taken at some events and possibly used for marketing purposes. If you do not wish to be included please inform a steward.

CATERING & REFRESHMENTS

The festival has not arranged any additional catering or refreshments except at the Norman Lockyer Observatory. Please use local businesses during the week.

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.

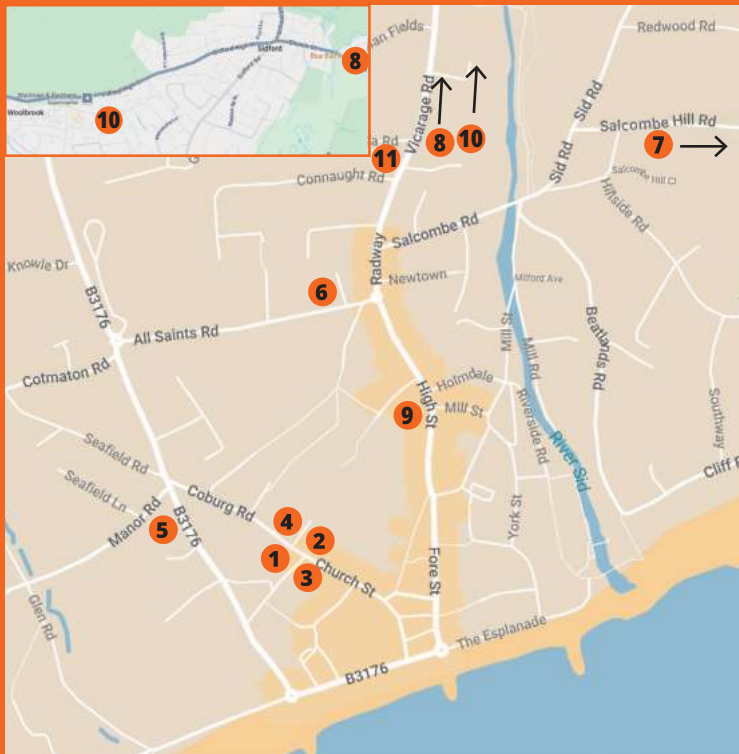
NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVAL

Friday 9 to Sunday 18 October 2026

ARRIVAL TIME

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

Date	Day	Time	Venue	Details
Fri	26-Sep	7:00pm for 7:30pm	Cricket Club	Quiz
Fri - Fri	10-19 Oct		Kennaway House Hatton and Amyatt 1 and 2	Schools Art
Fri	10-Oct	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Manor Pavilion Theatre	Tom Hynes of Devon Hedges. "Devon Hedges: Their Wildlife and Management". Talk in partnership with the Devonshire Association
Fri	10-Oct	7:00pm - 9:30pm	All Saints Hall	Hidden Beneath the Waves: Marine Life Communication
Sat	11-Oct	10:30am - 4:30pm	Kennaway House & Marquee SVA HQ - Parish Church Methodist Church & Hall	Super Science Saturday
Sat	11-Oct	11:00am - 11:45am	Methodist Church	Steve Rodgers - The geological and Archaeological Significance of the Beer Quarry Caves
Sat	11-Oct	12:00pm - 12:45pm	Methodist Church	Dr Malcolm Hart - The Chalk in Devon
Sat	11-Oct	1:00pm - 1:45pm	Methodist Church	Josephine Collingwood - An Introduction to Dartmoor's Geology
Sun	12-Oct	10:00am	Sidmouth Parish Church	Professor Penny Endersby, the CEO of the Met Office Interview
Sun	12-Oct	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Professor Lorna Harries of Exeter Medical School and SENISCA - The Splice of Life - reprogramming ageing to treat chronic disease
Sun	12-Oct	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Professor Daniel Davis - UCL - Patterns in the population-how epidemiology can answer key questions on healthy ageing
Sun	12-Oct	5:00pm	NLO	Powers of 10 - A musical journey
Mon	13-Oct	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Professor Neil Gow University of Exeter - Good Fungus, Bad Fungus - how fungi have shaped the ancient and modern world
Mon	13-Oct	7:00pm - 8:30pm	All Saints Hall	Matt & Davinder Gardner, The Faith Experiment: Miracles - can God break science? Talk in partnership with All Saints Church, Sidmouth
Mon	13-Oct	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Dr Alister Monteyne - Age-Related Muscle Loss: What It Is and How to Slow It Down
Tue	14-Oct	11:00am - 12:30pm	Gorst Energy Ltd, Oil Mill Ln, Clyst St Mary, Exeter EX5 1AF	Visit to Gorst Energy Biodigester: Discover Renewable Energy in Action Booking required via website
Tue	14-Oct	3:00pm - 4:30pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Dr Thomas Allen - Discover the Cutting Edge of Sports Engineering - Talk in partnership with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers
Tue	14-Oct	7:00pm - 7:45pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Mick Harrison, Devon and Cornwall Police: Click with Caution
Tue	14-Oct	7:45pm - 8:00pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Roz Woodward, Co-founder Securix - Why Diversity Matters in Cyber
Tue	14-Oct	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Nigel Gooding, University of Plymouth - Digital Choices, Human Impact: Cybersecurity in the Age of AI
Wed	15-Oct	10:30am - 12:00pm	Sidmouth Museum	Sidmouth Museum Geology Walk (£2.50)
Wed	15-Oct	11:00am - 12:00pm	Sidmouth Parish Church	Guy Rooker - Leonardo da Vinci: Pathfinder of Science. Talk in partnership with the Art Society of Sidmouth
Wed	15-Oct	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Jon Brewer - Woodfordes Perfumery - Perfumery - The Disrupters
Wed	15-Oct	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Dr Chris Lockyear - Sidmouth Arboretum A Decade of Growth: How the Sid Valley's Trees Have Changed
Thu	16-Oct	2:30pm - 4:00pm	SVA Building	Dr Sam Bridgewater - Landscape Recovery in East Devon. What does it mean and can we make the right land use choices to make it happen? Talk in partnership with the Sid Vale Association
Thu	16-Oct	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Blue Ball Inn	An evening of leading-edge science presentations and discussion to include Diabetes, Pitcher plants and more.
Fri	17-Oct	11:00am - 1:00pm	Mutters Moor Car Park	Fungus Foray with Dr Stuart Skeates, Devon Fungus Group
Fri	17-Oct	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Philip Ball - How life works - Book launch
Fri	17-Oct	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Kennaway Cellar Bar	Dr Gina Rippon, The Lost Girls of Autism: where have they been? - Book Launch
Sat	18-Oct	11:00am - 3:00pm	Stowford Community Centre	Biodiversity Day - Life on the Hedge
Sat	18-Oct	11:00am - 4:00pm	St Theresa's Hall	Robot Workshop - Colin Walls
Sun	19-Oct	11:00am - 4:00pm	NLO	NLO Family Day
Sun	19-Oct	11:30am - 12:00pm	NLO	Dr Charles Powell - Fluid dynamics in the atmosphere, ocean & space
Sun	19-Oct	12:10pm - 12:45pm	NLO	Rebecca Naylor - Museum of imagination
Sun	19-Oct	1:00pm - 1:45pm	NLO	Dr Alison Young - Viewing the birth of solar systems
Sun	19-Oct	2:00pm - 2:45pm	NLO	Carolyn Kennett - Lunar Gazing: The History of Human Connection to the Moon



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
9. **METHODIST CHURCH & HALL**
High Street EX10 8LE
10. **STOWFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE,**
Chambers Close EX10 9YL
11. **ST THERESA'S HALL**
Connaught Rd, EX10 8TS

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



SIDMOUTH
TOWN COUNCIL



CREATIVE
EAST DEVON
FUND



Institution of
MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS



EXETER
SCIENCE
PARK



making
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matter



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