



Explore, discover, enjoy!

PROGRAMME

Family Days

Super Science Saturday - 10 Oct FREE

Norman Lockyer Observatory - 18 Oct



Sidmouth Science Festival

www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

email: info@sidmouthsciencefestival.org





Welcome to the 2026 Sidmouth Science Festival

Our ten-day festival aims to inform and inspire, making science accessible and showing how scientific disciplines affect and enrich our everyday lives. Our focus is on the STEAM subjects – science, technology, engineering, the arts and maths – and the vital part they play in so many things we take for granted. There are events for all levels of interest including those who might not normally engage with science **AND MOST EVENTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE!**

Whether you're fascinated by the latest discoveries or curious about the world around you, we're sure you'll find plenty to interest you. So, check out the programme and we look forward to seeing you at the festival.

Science Festival Team

CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

10 - 17 Oct

at Kennaway House

10am – 4pm

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 theme: **THE MOON**



DONATIONS

We know that times are challenging for everyone, and we are very grateful for the support we receive from our sponsors and partners. The majority of Sidmouth Science Festival events are free to attend, helping us make science accessible to as many people as possible.

Putting on a festival of this size involves many costs, and donations from our visitors are increasingly important in helping us cover them. If you enjoy the festival and are able to make a contribution, it will make a real difference. You'll find collection containers and card machines at our venues and you can donate via our website www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

Every donation, large or small, helps us bring science to life and keep the festival accessible to everyone. Thank you.

Sidmouth Science Festival is
a registered charity number
1168115



DONATE HERE

ROBOT WORKSHOP

Saturday 17 October

All Saints Church Hall

11am – 4pm

Explore the
fascinating world
of robots with
hands-on activities
for all ages. Free,
drop-in event.



SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY

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

TOWN CENTRE EVENTS

**Venues: Market Place, Kennaway House,
Parish Church and the Sid Vale Association HQ**

Experience a FREE, fun-filled day of discovery, experiments and hands-on science for curious minds of all ages.

Join in with:

- Devon Science
- The Planetary Lab
- Wonderstruck Science Show
- Space Exe

Get creative with make and take-home projects. Become an Amateur Sleuth.

Watch demos and try activities with local schools' science students.

Have fun with kites, bubbles and projectiles. Learn about the natural world.

And much more!



GEOLOGY HUB

Methodist Church & Hall

Discover the fascinating world beneath our feet at the Geology Hub! Explore fossils, rocks and minerals through engaging activities, interactive games and microscope displays. Chat to experts who will be on hand to share their knowledge and answer your questions. There's something for everyone, from curious beginners to budding geologists.

Four, hourly, geology-themed talks by leading professionals start in the church at 11.00am (details on page 4.) Free of charge, booking not required.



NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 11.00AM – 4.00PM

Get ready for an out-of-this-world day at Sidmouth's famous observatory! Build and launch your own rocket, discover how telescopes reveal the wonders of the universe and journey through the stars in the planetarium. Have a go at the ever-popular jet car building and racing and hear from expert speakers. There's something to spark everyone's curiosity!

Talks start at 11.30 (details on page 6.)

Refreshments and catering available on site or bring a picnic.

Entrance charges apply

Adults £15

U18s Free

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Booking recommended.

www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

**£15 extra cost
for jet car building kit**



DATE	TIME	VENUE	DETAILS	TYPE
SAT 10 – SAT 17 OCT		Kennaway House	Children's Art Exhibition Theme: The Moon 10am – 4pm	Event
FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Manor Pavilion Theatre	Sidmouth's Changing Climate : Past, Present and Future Prof Brian Golding <i>In partnership with the Devonshire Association</i> Entrance £3	Talk
	7:00pm -10:00pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Growing hope together: Exploring the connections between food, our health, and the natural world. Andy Gray, Dr Jenny Goodman, Dr Michael Brooke, Chair Dr Emma Pilgrim BOOKING ESSENTIAL	Event
SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER	10:30am - 4:30pm	Various Town Centre Venues	SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY A full day of FREE scientific fun for families and people of all ages	Activities & talks
	11am -11:45am	Methodist Church	Geology talk Kieran Satchell - Lyme Regis Museum	Talk
	12pm - 12:45pm	Methodist Church	Fossils of the Otter Sandstone (revisited) Rob Coram - University of Bristol	Talk
	1pm - 1:45pm	Methodist Church	Climate Change: future impacts and problems Dr Malcolm Hart - University of Plymouth	Talk
	2pm - 2:45pm	Methodist Church	Beyond the Swamp: The terrestrial Crocodylomorphs that took over. Joe McIntee - ExeTinct	Talk
	7pm - 8:30pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Love is a Toad: On joy, grief, and nature nerdiness Lucy Lapwing - author and wildlife campaigner BOOKING ESSENTIAL	Talk
SUNDAY 11 OCT	2pm - 2.45pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Science of the Mind: Imaging the human brain throughout life Dr Susan Burrows - Somerset NHS Trust	Talk
	3pm - 4pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Science of the Mind: Philosophy of the Mind; emerging technologies, evolving minds? Dr Joel Krueger, Dr Lucy Osler, Dr Tom Roberts University of Exeter	Talk
MONDAY 12 OCT	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Grannymaths: fun mathematical activities to try with young children Prof Jennie Golding - University College London	Activity
	7pm - 8:30pm	All Saints Church	Science and God - Friends or Foes? Prof Andrew Halestrap - Bristol University <i>In partnership with All Saints Church</i>	Talk
	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Sport and Sudden Death: Scare or Screen - As cycling, running, padel and cold-water swimming boom among the middle-aged, what does this mean for our hearts? Dr Manish Gandhi - Royal Devon University Healthcare	Talk

DATE	TIME	VENUE	DETAILS	TYPE
TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER	3pm - 4pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Ada Lovelace Day Offshore Wind: The Celtic Sea Powerhouse Kerry Hayes - Simply Blue Group <i>In partnership with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers Entrance £2.50</i>	Talk
	7pm - 8pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	The science of health screening: evidence, wishful thinking & commercial manipulation Dr Angela Raffle - University of Bristol	Talk
	8:15pm - 9:15pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Screening for prostate cancer: complexity, campaigns, and evidence Prof Jenny Donovan - University of Bristol	Talk
WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER	11am -12pm	Parish Church	How many colours in the rainbow? Dr Susan Kay-Williams <i>In partnership with Art Society of Sidmouth</i>	Talk
	3pm - 4pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	The Science of Magic: Why smart people are easily deceived Prof Gustav Kuhn - University of Plymouth	Talk
	7pm - 8pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	An Introduction to Medical Ultrasound with live demonstrations using hospital equipment Steve Savage - Yeovil District Hospital	Event
THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER	10am -12:30am	Exeter Energy Recovery Plant	Visit to Exeter Energy Recovery Plant. Discover what happens to waste in Devon BOOKING ESSENTIAL	Visit
	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Sid Vale Association HQ	Coastal Flooding and Erosion: Sidmouth Coastal Defence Scheme. Steve Donnelly & Steve Kershaw - South West Flood & Coastal <i>In partnership with the Sid Vale Association Entrance £2.50</i>	Talk
	7:30pm - 9pm	The Blue Ball Inn Sidford	Science in the Pub - a sociable evening exploring current scientific topics over a drink and/or meal	Discussion
FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER	11am -12:30pm	The Knapp Orchard, Sidmouth	Introducing Lichens (field event). Lindsay Mahon - Devon Wildlife Trust BOOKING ESSENTIAL	Activity
	2:30pm - 4pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	The Secret Lives of Bees: Honey, Foraging and Conservation. Prof John Love, University of Exeter	Talk
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Hunting the Higgs: Could you control the Large Hadron Collider? Interactive comedy show with Sam Gregson 'The Bad Boy of Science' - Cambridge University. Supported by Colin White with 'The Race of Life'. Warning: contains some adult humour and language.	Comedy

DATE	TIME	VENUE	DETAILS	TYPE
SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER	10am -12pm	Connaught Gardens	Coastal Watch led by Devon Wildlife Trust with support from MARINELife BOOKING ESSENTIAL	Activity
	2pm - 2:30pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Discovering Marine Wildlife Rick Morris – MARINELife	Talk
	2:30pm -3pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Marine Strandings Network Coral Smith - Devon Wildlife Trust	Talk
	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Cellar Bar, Kennaway House	Little Horse of the Sea Neil Garrick-Maidment - Seahorse Trust	Talk
	11am - 4pm	All Saints Church Hall	Robot Workshop - many different robot-related activities and experiences for all ages at this free, drop-in event	Activity

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER	11am - 4pm	Norman Lockyer Observatory	ENJOY A FAMILY DAY AT SIDMOUTH'S FAMOUS OBSERVATORY with telescopes, planetarium, jet cars, science experiments, hands-on fun, VR journey through space and expert talks. <i>In association with the NLO.</i> BOOKING RECOMMENDED Adults £15 Under 18s free	Activities & talks
	11:30am -12pm	Norman Lockyer Observatory	Planet-forming discs with the James Webb Space Telescope Dr Sebastiaan Krijt - University of Exeter Included in the NLO entrance fee	Talk
	12:15pm-12:45pm	Norman Lockyer Observatory	The quest for new worlds Dr Vito Squicciarini – University of Exeter Included in the NLO entrance fee	Talk
	1pm - 1:45pm	Norman Lockyer Observatory	Chaos in Weather Forecasting: Probabilities and uncertainties in weather forecasting Ken Mylne - ex Met Office Included in the NLO entrance fee	Talk
	2pm - 2:45pm	Norman Lockyer Observatory	Space Weather – What is it and why should we care? Rebecca Spalton - Met Office Included in the NLO entrance fee	Talk

MORE INFORMATION

The festival website shows the current information about all festival events. It is also the place to go for bookings where required. Occasionally we may need to change some event details so keep your eye on the website.



www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

CHILDREN & ADULTS AT RISK

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 the Safeguarding Lead on 07976 872719. A quiet room is available on SuperScience Saturday 10 October in Kennaway House and at the Norman Lockyer Observatory on Sunday 18 October.

PHOTOS & VIDEOS

These will be taken at some events and possibly used for marketing purposes. 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.

CATERING & REFRESHMENTS

The festival has not arranged any additional catering or refreshments except at the Norman Lockyer Observatory 18 October. Please support local businesses during the week.

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 welcome anyone who enjoys working with others and getting involved.

INTERESTED? EMAIL US AT

info@sidmouthsciencefestival.org

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.

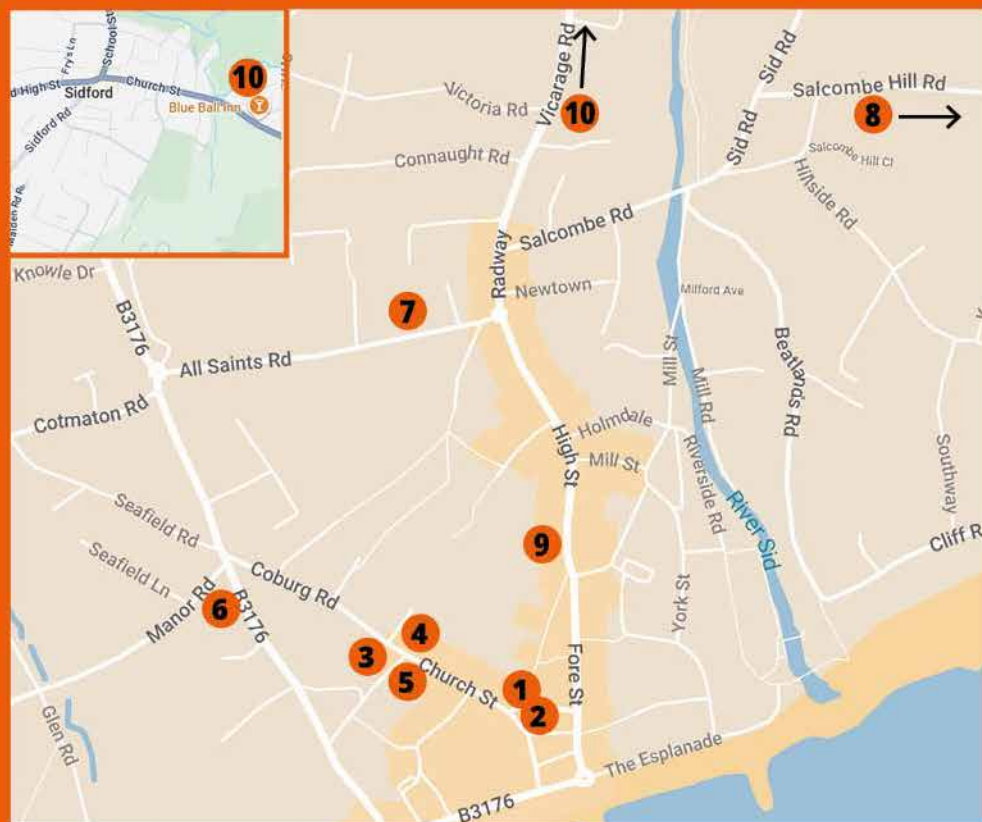
NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVAL

Friday 8 to Sunday 17 October 2027

WHAT DID YOU THINK?

We would love to hear your feedback about the festival and any ideas you have for future events. Please talk to anyone in the festival team, follow the QR code to a short survey or email us on info@sidmouthsciencefestival.org. Visit the Festival Observatory on Super Science Saturday and become a Festival Observer!





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| <p>1. INFORMATION HUB
Market Place EX10 8AR</p> <p>2. MARKET PLACE BUILDING
EX10 8AR
Note: 3 steps to access building</p> <p>3. KENNAWAY HOUSE
Coburg Road EX10 8NG</p> | <p>4. SIDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH
Church Street EX10 8LG</p> <p>5. SVA HEADQUARTERS
Church Street EX10 8LY</p> <p>6. MANOR PAVILION THEATRE
Manor Road EX10 8RP</p> <p>7. ALL SAINTS CHURCH
All Saints Road EX10 8ES</p> | <p>8. NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY
Salcombe Hill Road EX10 0NY</p> <p>9. METHODIST CHURCH & HALL
High Street EX10 8LE</p> <p>10. THE BLUE BALL INN
Sidford EX10 9QL</p> |
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Many thanks to our sponsors, without them there would be no festival.



SIDMOUTH
TOWN COUNCIL

a joint venture with
Devon
County Council

**Institution of
MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**



Programme Designed & Printed by Sidmouth Print

Sidmouth Science Festival

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