

Wednesday 19 July

	Granger cabaret & top table	Marlborough cabaret & clear area	Blaydon & Gibbs cabaret & top table	Planetarium	Junior Lab 3-5 only	Senior Lab 3-5 only
10.00 - 1.00	Life Science Centre open - all welcome					
12.15 - 1.00	Registration & Coffee					
1.15 - 1.45	Welcome (Lecture Theatre)					
1.45 - 2.00	followed by.... the BIG Event Mingle (Foyer)					
2.00 - 2.30						
2.30 - 3.00						
3.00 - 3.30	Coffee Break					
3.30 - 4.00	Electric Cabaret		Impact	Poetry Promoting Physics		Audiences with Special Needs
4.00 - 4.30						
15 min						
4.45 - 5.15	S*** Actually Happens	Exhibits: Innovate or Evolve?			Problem Solving & Maths	Tactile Universe
5.15 - 5.45						
7.30 onwards	Meet for pies & drinks - Redhouse, 32 Sandhill, Quayside, NE1 3JF					

The Electric Cabaret

Wednesday 19 July
3.30 - 4.30pm

High-voltage electricity shows and demos are of the most effective engagement activities around. But they come with health warnings. So we've gathered together some of the most electrifying high-voltage performers in the business to share their secrets, and show off their best effects to encourage more people and places to take the plunge into high-tension science engagement. This workshop will cover everything from safely using bench top Van de Graaf machines to staging Tesla coil spectaculars.

Marty Jopson

Impact – that's about hitting stuff, right?

Wednesday 19 July
3.30 - 4.30pm

Impact is important for universities and research organisations as they participate in the REF (Research Excellence Framework). Join four practitioners with different angles on Impact and the REF to find out more, why it matters, how it works and where you fit in. Impact is an entire conference in itself, we'll look briefly at what Impact is and what it might be; how researchers work has Impact; developing Impact with freelancers; and planning, evidence gathering and informing programme or activity developments. In addition we'll be gathering ideas should members wish to hold a BIG Skills Day on the topic.

Helen Obee Reardon, Cardiff School of Engineering
Mhairi Stewart, Head of Public Engagement, St Andrews University
Andy Miah, Chair in Science Communication & Future Media, Salford University
Neil Bennett, Scientific Communications Lead, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute
Oliver Quinlan, Senior Research Manager, Raspberry Pi Foundation

Poetry Promoting Physics

Wednesday 19 July

3.30a- 4.30pm

A poet, a composer and some scientists walked into a planetarium... what came out was a collaborative performance piece calling on strengths from all backgrounds, but how does a poet explore difficult ideas in physics and promote these through performance? Poet Katrina Porteous worked with composer Peter Zinovieff, Chris Hudson, planetarium supervisor at Life and Think Physics at Northumbria University to bring a brand-new performance piece - The Sun - to life in 2016. Part performance, part discussion, this session will address the challenges and benefits of mixing art and science.

*Chris Hudson, Planetarium Supervisor, Centre for Life
Katrina Porteous, Poet
Carol Davenport, Director Think Physics, Northumbria University*

Audiences with Special Needs: how to make things work

Wednesday 19 July

3.30 - 4.30pm

Do you want to design sessions for children and/or adults with special needs? Get hands-on with tried and tested activities from "Exploring Chemistry in SEND Schools" (Royal Society of Chemistry). I'll be sharing some top tips and we'll brainstorm some ideas to help you develop an activity suitable for your centre. Some of the activities and concepts covered will also be useful if you are working with very young audiences.

Sarah Bearchell, Sarah's Adventures in Science

When S*** Actually Happens

Wednesday 19 July

4.45 - 5.45pm

You do your risk assessment. You set up safely. Your venue provides everything you've requested and you follow tried, tested and approved methods. Yet something goes wrong. What do you do? What should you do? What's it like? What mental & physical tolls can an incident take? What procedures kick into action? Is it scary or is this part of the package of being professional? Matthew shares some very personal experiences in this open, frank session about why risk assessments and communication really do matter.

Matthew Tosh, Freelance

Exhibits: innovate or evolve?

Wednesday 19 July

4.45 - 5.45pm

A conversation about how we are thinking about exhibits and exhibitions in 2017. A panel with many decades of experience designing, developing and building exhibits for many leading organisations will discuss: what has changed in the way we think about exhibits in the last 10 years? What have we learned about the way people interact with exhibitions and exhibits? What is 'in fashion' and 'out of fashion' and why? What do materials, electronics, technology and manufacturing enable us to do now that we couldn't do ten years ago? What do you think? The discussion will be open to all.

*Lyndsey Clark
John Darnbrough, Content Developer - Wonderlab,
Science Museum Group
Kenneth Boyd, Director, FifeX Ltd
Andy Lloyd, Head of Special Projects, Centre for Life*

Problem Solving & Maths

Wednesday 19 July

4.45 - 5.45pm

The skills developed by problem solving in mathematical tasks have hugely broad applications, and one of the major benefits of studying maths is the ability and drive to tackle new and difficult tasks. This will be a session for sharing our favourite mathematical problems, and discussing the ideal combination of low entry point and rich ongoing extension work. We can aim to cover primary and secondary, and while we'll bring along some examples, you can also present your own.

Katie Steckles, Think Maths

Tactile Universe & Tactile Collider

Wednesday 19 July

4.45 - 5.45pm

Particle physicists and astronomers have embarked upon two innovative projects to reach a Visually Impaired (VI) with the latest astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology (Tactile Universe); particle physics and accelerator (Tactile Collider) research in the UK, making these traditionally visual areas of research more accessible, using a wide variety of tactile and aural methods. Try out the activities for yourself with blindfolds on. Hear about what we have learned along the way, and about our next steps to engage with this typically hard to reach audience.

Marieke Navin, Madlab

Dr Robert Appleby, Reader of Physics, University of Manchester

Dr Jen Gupta, SEPnet/Ogden Outreach Officer Institute of Cosmology & Gravitation University of Portsmouth

Dr Nicolas Bonne, Visiting Endeavour Research Fellow Institute of Cosmology & Gravitation University of Portsmouth

Dr Christopher Edmonds, PDRA, University of Liverpool

North East Pie Comm

6.30 – 10pm

Wednesday night is the night we meet for a bite to eat and a drink or two with no particular aim in mind (some call it a networking event). Not everyone comes, but most do.

Pop back to your hotel, or don't. We'll be meeting at The Redhouse, 32 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3JF for a drink and a pie. Just ten minutes' saunter from the Centre for Life

All are welcome – you don't have to be a BIG event delegate to attend. If you don't like a pie, there are lots of places to eat within drifting distance – all diets catered-for.

Food and drink at your own expense tonight.

Thursday 20 July

	Granger cabaret & top table	Marlborough cabaret & clear area	Blaydon & Gibbs cabaret & top table	Swan Room	Junior Lab 3-5 only	Senior Lab 3-5 only	
8.30 - 9.00							
9.00 - 9.30	Registration & Coffee						
9.30 - 10.00	Volunteering	Healthcare	What Should Unis be Doing?	Cellblock Science			
10.00 - 10.30							
10.30 - 11.00							
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break						
11.30 - 12.00	Working Overseas	Thinking Doing Talking Science	Proper Science	Centre for Life Gallery Tour			
12.00 - 12.30							
12.30 - 1.00							
1.00 - 1.30	BIG AGM 1.30pm	LUNCH					
1.30 - 2.00							
2.00 - 2.30							
2.30 - 3.00	Science Podcasting	Best Demo prep Closed session	Unconscious Bias Toolkit	Tinkering across Europe	Making Miniature Machines		
3.00 - 3.30							
3.30 - 4.00							
4.00 - 4.30							
4.30 - 5.00	COFFEE and snacks to tide you over to dinner						
5.00 - 6.30	BEST DEMO COMPETITION - Marlborough Room						
6.30 - 7.30	Drink, Think and Tinker - Mezzanine						
7.30 - 10ish	Dinner at 7.30 for 8pm - Granger room						

Volunteering: gaining scicomm experience & effective use of a generous resource

Thursday 20 July
9.30 - 10.30am

Volunteering is a big part of the science communication world, in early career as a skills-gathering tool, within organisations as support for events or by individuals wanting to share their skills. This discussion workshop aims to give insight into the world of volunteering and top tips from the perspective of both volunteer and organisation looking to tap into this wonderful resource. Topics covered will include: types of volunteering, how to get involved, reasons, recruitment, retention, reward, training, quality and evaluation.

James Bamford, Institute of Physics
Hannah Renshall, Outreach Officer, Institute of Physics
Paul Treble, STEM Ambassador & Trustee of Disabled Afloat Riverboats Trust

Healthcare: stop, collaborate & listen!

Thursday 20 July
9.30 - 11am

An informal facilitator-led workshop to discuss how we can encourage the public to collaborate and engage with the health system and care more about their health. This may include questions like: Why should people take ownership of their health? How can people be engaged about how drugs are developed? How can we ensure best use of the NHS? How can we remain healthy? What does the future hold as the world changes over the coming decades? From this, a set of tangible outcomes will arise to aid conversations with the public around the most critical of topics: our health.

Dr Chris Hall, Aurora Communications

What Should Universities be Doing for Science Communication?

Thursday 20 July

9.30 - 11am

Universities are a valuable source of scientific knowledge and facilities; yet some have full outreach calendars and others seem to do very little. The session will be divided into two parts; a group discussion followed by a chance to get hands on with some activities. The session will focus on: Why do some Universities do so much whereas others don't? Should Universities be obliged to contribute to SciComm? How can Universities be supported in providing more science outreach? What activities do different Universities in the UK provide?

Joanna Aldred, Durham University

Bethany Kazmierski, PhD Student, Durham University

Jaspreet Sanghera, PhD Student, Durham University

Dr Joanna Buckley, Sheffield University

Prof. Nazira Karodia, Interim Head of Faculty of Science and Engineering and Professor of Science Education, Wolverhampton University

Cellblock Science: designing activities for public engagement in prisons

Thursday 20 July

9.30 - 11am

Designing public engagement activities in places where materials are highly restrictive is a challenge on its own, but what about in an environment where STEM is under-represented and audiences have been switched-off because of previous educational experiences? In this highly interactive session join us for a quiz like no other as we explore how to bring sustained engagement into prisons and restrictive environments based on our work in Scottish prisons.

Amy Hayward, Cellblock Science Coordinator, University of St Andrews

Dr Mhairi Stewart, Head of Public Engagement, University of St Andrews

Working Overseas

Thursday 20 July

11.30am - 1.00pm

Many science communicators are asked to take their glowing, gherkins, hydrogen balloons and teaspoons to other parts of the world. What is it like when you get there though? How do cultural differences affect your performance? Are there top tips for being a hit on stage and securing more overseas adventures? Speakers will share their experiences of working around the world and together we will try to draw up a checklist for international travel.

James Piercy, science made simple

David Price, international performer and Schippol sleeper
David took a job in trinidad which he says changed his life

Dr Ken Farquar, science show presenter and widely travelled juggler. Ken will talk about his Malaysia and Japanese tours.

Rick Hall, Winston Churchill Fellow. Rick will talk about his African experiences.

Thinking, Doing, Talking, Science: what can science communicators learn from teaching strategies?

Thursday 20 July

11.30am - 12.30pm

Thinking, Doing, Talking, Science is a nationwide project focusing on the development of cognitively challenging, practical, and interactive primary science lessons. Academic research, teaching practice, and science communication combining to provide rewarding CPD for teachers. Join TDTS project developer and lead Bridget, and TDTS trainers Ruth, Nicky, and David as we discuss how teaching strategies can enrich the work that science communicators do across the board.

Ruth Perkins, science made simple

Bridget Holligan, Science Oxford

Nicola Waller, Centre for Industry Education Collaboration

David Price, science made simple

'Proper Science'

Thursday 20 July

11.30am - 1.00pm

When children conduct experiments they often cry out 'This is proper science!' Yet kids are by nature the most curious "scientists" and ask great questions about how the world works. Both Vienna Open Lab and Centre for Life's Experiment Zone invite families to conduct experiments, allowing parents, grandparents and children to work side by side, observing, planning, testing and collecting data. Why are some activities more successful than others? How can they be improved? Is there a way to promote experiments without reinforcing misconceptions? Discuss your experiences, and join in with a few of our experiments to try.

*Marilena Pace, International Centre for Life
Manuela Ringbauer, Project Manager, Vienna Open Lab*

What Were we Thinking?! A guided tour of Life's galleries

Thursday 20 July

11.30am - 12.30pm

Life's galleries have evolved since we opened our doors in 2000. Join Life staff on a tour through the exhibition spaces exploring the rationale behind this change and the research shaping our thinking.

*Elin Roberts, Head of Public Engagement, Centre for Life
Andy Lloyd, Head of Special Projects, Centre for Life*

BIG AGM

1.30 - 2.15pm

BIG STEM Communicators Network operates as a not-for-profit organisation of members – a club, effectively; everything it does is to support the development of the science communication profession in the UK and beyond. BIG's AGM is held during the BIG Event to give as many members as possible a chance to contribute: to have a grasp on what the executive committee has done for the membership over the last year and to help shape the next year or two.

Everyone welcome. Please bring your two-pennyworth. Find out too what joining the BIG Exec Committee is all about and give it some consideration as something that could broaden your professional horizons.

The BIG Executive Committee

Science Podcasting for All

Thursday 20 July

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Technology can allow almost anyone to become a writer through blogging, a video star via YouTube or a broadcaster via podcasting. But what makes a good science radio show or a podcast? Rhys Phillips presents a weekly science magazine show syndicated around the world as well occasional science reports for BBC Radio. In this workshop, participants will look at the different types of content/features that work in a science radio show/podcast and as a group, we'll prepare and record a short radio show by the end of the workshop.

Rhys Phillips, Radio Cardiff

Best Demo Prep

Thursday 20 July

2.30pm - 4.30pm

This a closed session, just for Best Demo competitors to set up and helpers to help. Strictly no peeking in here please. If you're competing, please drop in even if you don't need any set-up time

Karl Byrne, BIG

Your Unconscious Bias Toolkit

Thursday 20 July

2.30pm - 4.30pm

None of us are aware of our unconscious biases, but fortunately some of us are aware of our lack of awareness. NUSTEM and the Institute of Physics have both been working to help practitioners understand and combat their biases. In this session, we'll share our best practice with facilitators and trainers, enabling you to incorporate our latest thinking into your work. What exercises work, how do you overcome understandable resistance, and how can you (can you?) affect long term change in your audiences?

*Joe Shimwell, Primary Science Outreach Specialist,
NUSTEM - Northumbria University
Dr Jenny Search, Improving Gender Balance Project
Officer, Institute of Physics*

Tinkering Our Way Across Europe

Thursday 20 July

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Over the last couple of years Life has been part of a project developing and promoting Tinkering, funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the EU. This session is to share what we've developed for the project (meaning Tinkering activities to come and have a go at!). We'll also share what we've been doing in training with teachers and youth workers, our thinking on the ethos of Tinkering and why we love it, and tips for facilitation. Come along, have a chat, have a play, have a think.

Naomi Foster, Centre for Life

Lindsey Stevenson, Maker, Centre for Life

Mechanical Engineering: design, build & present working miniature machines

Thursday 20 July

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Resources and instructions are provided for a session of fun practical making to inspire wonder in mechanical science. After a short introductory demonstration, participants will form small teams that will either design and build an aircraft or a working hydraulic arm from card, split-pins, plastic tubing, syringes and paper tape. With the addition of a flight unit, receiver and transmitter teams will then demonstrate their engineering in a short fun show that presents to a fresh audience how the activity and resources could engage young people with their science heritage and vision of the future.

Hugh Thomas, My Future My Choice

Polly Barnes, Director of Education, My Future My Choice

The Best Demo Competition

5 - 6.30pm

BIG members line up to compete for one of the least valuable and yet most highly prized honours in UK science communication.

The Best Demo Competition presents a light-hearted look at some of the demos you think are worth sharing with your peers.

There's no money to win, it's not an Oscar, it's not a Nobel Prize. But within BIG we think it is worth winning.

Each competitor has no more than three minutes (and a warm and welcoming audience) to demonstrate the maths, science, engineering and so on that really lights their fire and they just can't help showing off to their peers. The audience decides. If you're in the audience, don't take it too seriously; if you're competing, take it seriously but don't take it too seriously.

And on to the judging....

Best Demo winners

1997	Wendy Sadler
1998	Derek Fish
1999	Chris Norton
2000	Gillian Pearson
2001	Gillian Pearson
2002	James Piercy
2003	Suse Brumpton
2004	Rob Copeland & Izi Mohammed
2005	Ben Craven
2006	Marcus Weber
2007	Ben Craven
2008	Diane Gray
2009	Ian Simmons
2010	Farrah Nazir
2011	Brian Macken
2012	Karl Byrne
2013	Marcin Chydzinski & Błażej Dawidson
2014	Stephen Williams
2015	Matt Pritchard
2016	Tobias Happe

Drink, Think & Tinker

6.30 - 7.30pm

After the Best Demo Competition, waft over to the Mezzanine for a tippie and a prolonged discussion about Which Was the Best Demo and Why. While you're arguing, fiddle with some stuff to work up an appetite for your dinner.

Low-Fi Demos Jam

Try out some demos, tricks and interesting titbits which can be performed using only objects you're already holding, or even no kit at all. Add to your repertoire of very useful backup material, busking activities and wotnot. We'll have some at the ready and you can add your own gems.

*Katie Steckles, Think Maths
Duncan Yellowlees, Public Engagement Officer,
Centre for Life*

Go Ballistic!

Make a ping-pong ball-firing catapult using our instructions, and you'll find... it's rubbish. Your challenge is to tweak, test, adapt and improvise until you have something... magnificent. Can you top our leader board and carry off the grand prize? No? Oh well...

Jonathan Sanderson, Northumbria University

Miniature Machines

If you made machines in the sessions earlier today, show them off to everybody. If you didn't, come and be shown off to.

*Hugh Thomas, My Future My Choice
Polly Barnes, Director of Education, My Future My Choice*

Friday 21 July

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8.30 - 9.00						
9.00 - 9.30	Registration & Coffee					
9.30 - 10.00	Scoping Professionalism	Goats	Exploding Melons	First Steps in Digital Making		
10.00 - 10.30						
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee Break					
11.00 - 11.30	Science with Redcoats	Spreading the Word	Graphic Design	Lights, Camera, Animate		
11.30 - 12.00						
15 min						
12.15 - 12.45	Engaging Young Adults	Talk to Me, Community!	Reaching New Audiences			
12.45 - 1.15						
1.15 - 1.45	LUNCH					
1.45 - 2.15	LUNCH					
2.00 - 2.30	LUNCH					
2.30 - 3.00	Normalising Science	PERFORM	Post-truth Science Communication		Smart Saturday Science	
3.00 - 3.30						
3.30 - 4.00						
4.00 - 4.30	Coffee Break					
4.30 - 5.00	ISTATOY & Plenary					
5.00-5.30						
5.30pm onwards	The designated pub for lingerers is posted at the welcome desk					

Scoping the Professionalisation of Public Engagement with STEM

Friday 21 July

9.30 - 10.30am

Through the Scoping Professionalisation of Public Engagement with STEM (ScOPPES) project at the beginning of the year there was a widespread discussion about professionalisation our sector: whether we should do it, how and what challenges we would face. Recommendations have been made to the National Forum (who funded ScOPPES). Come along to this interactive session to discuss the findings, recommendations and responses from the Forum. What will the next steps be? Helen Featherstone is an independent Public Engagement Consultant. Helen led this piece of work in collaboration with Professor Justin Dillon (University of Bristol) and Colin Johnson.

Helen Featherstone, ScOPPES

Goats, Votes & Maths Misquotes

Friday 21 July

9.30 - 10.30am

From TV game shows to General Elections we're forced to make choices. In this interactive show the science magician Dr Matt Pritchard will reveal how our brains can be easily tricked and what we can do to boost our critical thinking. Featuring psychological mind games and misleading maths. You'll never look at an advert the same way again!

Matt Pritchard, Science Magic Shows

Exploding Melons on Channel 4's Live Cancer Telethon – how we did it & how do we top it?

Friday 21 July

9.30 - 10.30am

Last year we persuaded Channel 4 to feature science on their Stand Up To Cancer TV show, exposing our research to over 4 million people. In the first part of this session we'll share how we made the science come to life on live TV, the challenges we faced and some sneaky ways we overcame them. This year there's no TV show, so instead we're enlisting celebs to help engage our audience. We'd like to test our newest ideas and tap into the audience's creativity to develop engagement activities that can wow a celebrity.

Amy Fawcett, Cancer Research UK

Dr Samuel Godfrey, Research Information Manager, Cancer Research UK

Fionnuala Ratcliffe, Research Engagement Manager, Cancer Research UK

First Steps in Digital Making

Friday 21 July

9.30 - 10.30am

Don't know your GPIO from your Yippie-Ki-Yay? This session is for you. We'll guide you through some simple programming-the-physical-world exercises, exploring the point where code meets tangible objects. Then we'll offer some examples of where this sort of work leads, who's doing it, and why anybody thinks it's enjoyable, let alone important. Limited numbers, because we only have so many Raspberry Pis.

Jonathan Sanderson, Northumbria University

Joe Shimwell, Senior Lecturer/Primary Outreach, Northumbria University

Chris Robbins, Grallator

Dave Ansell, freelance exhibit developer

Olympia Brown, Senior Programme Manager, Raspberry Pi Foundation

Communicating Science with Redcoats

Friday 21 July

11am - 12pm

Last year, along with many other well-known organisations and individuals, the Ri Young Scientist Centre team helped Butlin's holiday camps put on a series of 'Astonishing Science Weekenders'. This year the project moved on to training up redcoats with no scicomm experience (and sometimes little

science knowledge) to deliver STEM workshops and drop in activities. Was this a good idea? would it work? what were the gains (and losses) for the organisations involved? We will talk through what we did and what we learnt from the project before an open discussion around working with business.

Dave Porter, The Royal Institution of Great Britain

Jemma Naumann, LYSC Workshop facilitator, The Royal Institution of Great Britain

Jo Burton, LYSC Workshop facilitator, The Royal Institution of Great Britain

Spreading the Word: training up the next generation

Friday 21 July

11am - 12pm

Interested in developing young people into science ambassadors? Find out how Techniquet Glyndwr, Dr Research and Durham University have helped young people develop and deliver their own STEM activities. Learn how to pass on presentation skills to young people from primary age to 6th form students, the art of being a successful mentor and take part in some of the activities yourself! Come along to this interactive session and group discussion focusing on training up the next generation of Science Communicators.

Dawn Pavey, Techniquet Glyndwr

Hannah Marubbi, Projects Administrator, Techniquet Glyndwr

Jenny Search, Project Officer, Dr Research and Institute of Physics

Dr Lorraine Coghill, Science Outreach Coordinator, Durham University

Getting Good Graphic Design

Friday 21 July

12.15 - 1.15pm

A workshop of completely practical thoughts to help you get started with graphic design - either if you want to do your own or you're commissioning from an agency/freelancer for the first time. From a science communicator who has also worked as graphic designer. We'll talk cover the basic tools for DIY design (Photoshop/Pixelmator, InDesign) but also when it's time to call in a designer or agency - and how to get the best results out of them with some knowledge of what they're looking for.

Neil Monteiro, Freelance

Lights, Camera, Animate! Making your own science videos on a shoestring

Friday 21 July

11am - 1.15pm

Animated science videos are a great online resource – accessible by millions across the globe. Whilst professionally-created videos often cost thousands to produce, it's possible to make your own animated videos for only a tiny fraction of that. In this practical session, you'll create your own short animated videos. You'll use a variety of video styles including Claymation and flipchart drawing, and we'll also play with audio, editing and distribution.

Helen Cammack, University of St Andrews

Engaging Young Adults Outside Formal Education

Friday 21 July

12.15 - 1.15pm

One of the most underserved audiences within science communication are young adults (14 - 30 years old) outside of formal education who are often seen as too difficult to reach with standard sci comm approaches and with efforts being "too late". This discussion will share insights from a range of approaches working with this audience across different sectors ranging from youth work (Prince's Trust, Girl Guiding) to cultural engagement (Voluntary Arts Scotland, Science Ceilidh) that can be adopted into STEM engagement. Experiences, issues & practical solutions will be pooled, and sharing of your own learnings and challenges encouraged!

Lewis Hou, Voluntary Arts Scotland, Science Ceilidh

Sarah Cosgriff, STEM Learning and Development Manager, The Prince's Trust

Rebecca MacLennan, Peer Educator & Trainer, Girl Guiding

Paolo Arru, BSc Microbiology

"How can I get my community to talk to me?" #sciroom

Friday 21 July

12.15 - 1.15pm

Many groups are inspired by NCCPE's ethos to strive towards three types of interaction in public engagement: informing (sending information to public), consulting (receiving information from public), and collaborating (working together). But how can we successfully achieve the last two? We

created The Science Room to improve on that, combining a interactive style, community-led focus, and creative evaluation techniques. We're going to discuss with you what's worked for us (and what hasn't), and ways we want to go forward with consulting, collaborating & interaction in the future, encouraging your thoughts & ideas in improving all community science projects.

Jamal Kinsella, The Science Room

Olly Trojak, Technical Director, The Science Room

Reaching New Audiences by Understanding Them Better

Friday 21 July

12.15 - 1.15pm

Wellcome is keen that people of all backgrounds should be able to engage with science on their own terms. Recent research that we have commissioned is helping us to understand the circumstances and motivators for the different audiences we'd like to reach. We're using this research to inform how we engage with people and our approach to funding, including in our new Public Engagement Fund. The session will be an opportunity to find out about the results of the research, how we are responding to it and the work others are doing to broaden the reach of science engagement.

Mat Hickman, Wellcome Trust

Amy Sanders, Strategy and Impact Manager - Public Engagement, Wellcome Trust

Normalising Science in Informal & Formal Education

Friday 21 July

2.30 - 4pm

"Science is just not for someone like me" is a phrase we would all like to change. In theory there are multitudes of ways to do this but in practice does any of it actually work? 4 individuals share their journeys through the muddy waters of promoting Science Capital, highlighting the successful and less successful ways of engaging the public in science before taking a step back and asking what are we actually hoping to achieve.

Bethan Ross, Senior Audience Researcher, Science Museum Group

Dr Carol Davenport, Director, NUSTEM, Northumbria University

*Andy Lloyd, Head of Special Projects, Centre for Life
Nichola Wallworth, STEM Ambassador Hub Manager
(Trans-Pennine Region), Science Museum Group*

PERFORM, performance arts, science, young people and a participatory process

Friday 21 July

2.30 - 4pm

PERFORM investigates the effects of the use of performing arts in fostering young peoples' motivations and engagement with STEM in secondary schools in France, Spain and the UK. Come along to this performance based session, as we tussle with: Finding out what our youth think about science Representing what our youth told us with performing arts formats Helping our youth to tell their own stem stories via the performing arts

David Price, Science Made Simple

Helena Gonzalez Buron, Science Communicator, Big Van Theory

Dr. Oriol Marimon Garrido. International Project Manager, Big Van Theory

Post-Truth Science Communication

Friday 21 July

2.30 - 4pm

Suddenly 'SciComm' seems more important. What could it do better and where is it going wrong? Ian Russell will present startling evidence that, for politically sensitive topics, greater scientific literacy actually correlates with INCREASED opposition to scientifically validated truth. On the other hand, how helpful is our informal emphasis on empathy and emotion, in an age where arguments about science are won by appeal to feelings rather than facts? And does SciComm too often marginalise 'curiosity' as little more than a valuable aid to 'learning'? So, how are we going to change the world? Plenty of time allowed for discussion.

Ian Russell, Ian Russell Interactives

Smart Saturday Science

Friday 21 July

2.30 - 4pm

A hands-on session using the super simple BBC Microbit on novel projects. 90 mins of engineering stuff and a grand race finale of electric worms.

Neil Downie, Air Products

Di Downie

I Saw This and Thought of You

Friday 21 July

4.30 - 5.30pm

A medley of miscellaneous presentations from anyone who has a little something to share with the BIG community. This is where all the odds-and-sods of ideas go: whether you bring a thing along or a thing springs to mind during the Event, ISTATOY is your soapbox. Each presentation is a 2-minute (max!) nugget of information: a question, a hint, a tip, a rant... over the years we've had demos, songs, book recommendations, poetry, film, and more. But we haven't had whatever you're itching to share. Not yet. Sign up through the event, or let Jonathan know.

Jonathan Sanderson, Northumbria University
You!

Not yet scheduled

Why Bother with Blogging?

not yet scheduled

Would you like to start a blog but don't know where you begin? Blogs can be a very useful tool for sharing your knowledge and reaching a global audience. science made simple specialises in live performances, but we also have an extensive online collection of articles and activities, covering a wide span of topics and target audiences. This session will offer some top tips to get started on a blog, lessons we have learned over the years, and a discussion to help troubleshoot and share your blogging experiences.

Becca Smithers, science made simple