

Midlothian Science Festival

13th - 21st October 2012

Midlothian Science Festival 2012 EVALUATION REPORT



For further information on this report please contact:

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Executive Summary

Midlothian Science Festival ran from 13th-21st October 2012. The main cash funding was received from The Scottish Government Science Festivals funding. Other cash was received from partners. The majority of 'funding,' however was 'in-kind' in terms of venues and staff time.

The Festival at a Glance

- 30+events including family drop-ins, films, talks by scientists, book groups, author talks, outdoor activities, exhibitions and a children's drawing competition.
- Over 1000 visitors attended events.
- Cash cost of £4600.
- One paid member of staff – Freelance Festival Manager.
- Core festival team provided in-kind by their organisations including Midlothian Libraries, Midlothian Arts and Creativity Team, Midlothian Ranger Service, University of Edinburgh, Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh Science Triangle (and many more).
- Over 100 volunteers from a range of organisations including industry, higher education institutions and colleges (staff and students), and 'other groups'. 15 of these were STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) Ambassadors.
- 4 public engagement professionals worked over 40 hours each on organising and running events for the festival (only one was paid and even then only for a portion of these hours. The other hours were donated in-kind).
- 2 members of staff from Midlothian Libraries and Midlothian Council Arts and Creativity Team worked over 40 hours each on organising and running events (given in-kind).
- 17 library staff contributed to events at all levels, from participating on organising committee, to organising their own local events.
- 15+ venues were involved, including libraries across Midlothian, Vogrie Park and House, National Mining Museum Scotland, Middleton Village Hall and private individuals' houses.

Events

There were more than 30 events at Midlothian Science festival including:

- 7 outdoor events – scientific bike ride, science walk (particle physics), tree planting (x2), nature art creations, pond dipping and Tiny Tots Trail.
- 5 family events organised by local librarians on a variety of topics (eg Fabulous Bodies, Rocket Blast).
- 4 family drop-in days with a variety of interactive stands.
- 2 Genetic Modification workshops.
- 2 talks by scientists - '*Genetically Modified Food*' & '*Technology on the Farm*'
- 2 performances by Stunt Scientist Dr Bunhead.
- 2 family films – '*The Iron Giant*' and '*October Sky*'.
- 3 book group events with a scientist on the topic of HeLa cells (*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot)
- 2 author talks – Stephen Blackmore and Andrew Crumey.
- 3 exhibitions – '*Enlightenment*' (photographs), '*Curiosity Life on Mars*' and '*Gunpowder, Zebras and Cloud Chambers: The history of science in Midlothian*'.
- 1 competition for children – Design a Robot.

Partners

Main Partners (Organisers)

- Midlothian Library Service
- Midlothian Arts and Creativity Team
- Midlothian Council
- University of Edinburgh - including Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology, The Roslin Institute, The School of Biology, SynthSys
- Moredun Research Institute
- Midlothian Ranger Service
- Midlothian Voluntary Action
- Edinburgh Science Triangle
- Mayfield and Easthouses Development Trust
- Roslin Biocentre

Associated Partners (provided events)

- University of Edinburgh - The School of Physics
- Moorflix
- The Kabin
- National Mining Museum Scotland
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Edinburgh College
- Hydrogen Office and the Bright Business Partnership
- Penicuik Community Development Trust
- Local Studies Centre, Midlothian Libraries

Other Supporters:

- Scottish Government (funder)
- Forest Research
- EAE (Edinburgh Arts & Entertainment)