



Bealtaine Living Earth Festival



22 MAY 2021 BIODIVERSITY DAY

We're part of the solution #ForNature

Celebrating Our Living Earth

The Bealtaine Living Earth Festival celebrates biodiversity and natural heritage in the South-East of Ireland. The festival incorporates two very important international days, [International Day for Biological Diversity](#), on May 22 and World Bee Day on May 20.

The festival will have a focus on the natural heritage of the Southeast especially biodiversity and wellbeing. Public events will be all online and can be viewed each day at 5.30pm as part of 'LivingEarthTV' on www.livingearth.ie.



Our Living Earth TV line up:

- Saturday 15 May: A journey through 4 seasons of the Lafcadio Hearn Gardens, Tramore

- Sunday 16 May: Enjoying Nature for Mental Health and Wellbeing with Dr Mark Rowe
- Monday 17 May: The Magic of Birds in Spring and Summer with author and broadcaster Eric Dempsey
- Tuesday 18 May: Exploring the JFK Arboretum
- Wednesday 19 May: Beside & Beneath the Waves- understanding the impacts of climate change on the maritime environment
- Thursday 20 May: The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan- how you can help?
- Friday 21 May: At the head of the tide- a look at the natural history of Carrick on Suir
- Saturday 22 May: Promoting Biodiversity in your Community

Book all of these *free* events [here!](#)



Pint of Science

Pint of Science invites scientists to your favourite local pubs and cafes to share their research with you. This year we are going virtual and bringing the best researchers Ireland has to offer to your living room!

Pint of Science on 18 May will see WIT researchers Saoirse Casey-Power and Dileep Kumar Reddy, join with Sarah McComish (TCD) and Emmanuel Popovici (TCD) to talk about their research. Saoirse is exploring novel ways to use nanoparticles to deliver drugs to the back of the eye. Dileep will talk about his work developing new antibiotics

The event is free, [book here!](#)

The Pint of Science Festival takes place from 17-19 May 2021.



Robert Boyle Summer School

After missing a festival due to Covid restrictions, the 9th Robert Boyle Summer School will take place from 26 – 27 June 2021.

This year the theme is "Women in STEM: past, present and future".

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it will take place online.

The school will celebrate the achievements of women in the history of science before exploring issues for women in STEM today and into the future.

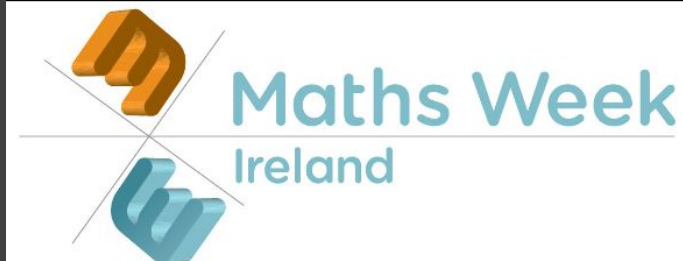
Speakers include Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell and Dr Michelle diMeo Biographer of Lady Ranelagh.

Visit www.robertboyle.ie for more!

ROBERT BOYLE Summer School 2021



Women in STEM
Past, Present & Future
26-27 June www.robertboyle.ie



Maths Week Ireland was founded by Calmast at WIT in 2006 and quickly grew to be the biggest festival of its kind in the world. It has been replicated in Maths Week Scotland and Maths Week England and has inspired many other maths events across the world. Maths Week is a partnership of over 50 groups (including all of Higher Education) on the island. Maths Week participation pre-Covid was over 400,000. In 2020 over 350,000 participated remotely. Maths Week Ireland 2021 will take place from 16-24 October.



STEMreach Programme with Peer Teaching

STEMreach is a very successful STEM initiative developed by Calmast connecting higher education, industry, governmental and non-governmental bodies with primary and post-primary schools. The Centre has developed a range of 6-week STEMreach modules covering problem solving, engineering, chemistry, physics, healthcare and more. Creativity, teamwork, communication and sustainability are key aspects of STEMreach.



STEMreach Sustainability

Several schools approached us to ask if we could arrange something for Transition Year pupils when they came back to school after Easter. Transition years have missed out on so much of the regular programme, so we readily agreed. Word spread among teachers. In April we welcomed over 420 transition year students from nine schools across the region to their STEMreach Sustained Engagement Programme 'Sustainability; Our Future, Your Story'.

The STEMreach Sustainability module explores sustainability and biodiversity using the medium of digital storytelling. The programme aims to create environmental awareness and empower students to think creatively and critically about the world around them. Throughout the programme students connected with experts in their fields including Grace O'Sullivan MEP, Brigid Walsh chartered engineer specialising in renewable energy and Thomas Arnold digital content creator.

The module will culminate during Bealtaine 'Living Earth Festival' 15 – 23 May 2021 with Transition Year students showcasing a video and activity they have produced to communicate a message about sustainability to their local primary school and community.

If you are interested in getting involved with STEMreach for TY in the new academic year please email calmast@wit.ie

Find out more <https://www.calmast.ie/stemreach-2/>

Other events from 2021 so far...

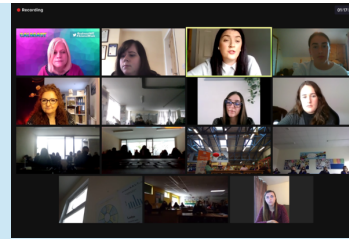


Robert Boyle Winter School:

Normally the RBWS would run over one day in Dublin, but with Covid we ran events over three evenings with the theme "Covid, Science and Policy".

The series commenced on Boyle's birthday with Prof Anthony Staines followed by Ireland's most sought after science communicator, Prof Luke O'Neill. The series closed appropriately on Lady Ranelagh's (Boyle's sister) birthday. The historical dimension was covered by Dr Michelle diMeo speaking about Boyle, Lady Ranelagh and the Plague.

You can find out more about the remarkable Lady Ranelagh at the Robert Boyle Summer School in June.



many and exciting Engineering careers available in the region. Special events promoted engineering as a career to girls.

We look forward to building on this success, working with colleagues from IT Carlow in the new Technological University.



SciFest@WIT:

SciFest@WIT is part of the national Scifest programme, which is an excellent programme of STEM fairs for second-level students, which has an amazing reach. SciFest is about participation and nurturing.

The fairs take place in 16 regional venues - the 9 Institutes of Technology, TU Dublin (3 venues: Blanchardstown, Grangegorman and Tallaght), Munster TU (2 venues: Cork and Tralee), DCU and St Mary's College Derry.

Normally a SciFest@College fair consists of a competition and exhibition of projects, a prize-giving ceremony, and may also include a selection of science talks, science demonstrations in the college laboratories and advice on careers in STEM and courses available in the college. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 2021 SciFest@College programme will take place online.

Thanks to all the experts from business, industry and state bodies who together with academics from WIT have undertaken the important and demanding task of judging in the past, we will be calling upon you again next year when once again we will have the spectacular WIT Arena full of enthusiastic teenagers.

Bausch + Lomb STEMreach:

Calmast supported Bausch + Lomb in delivering a 6-week STEMreach programme with Waterpark College, Waterford. Calmast ran a science communication session for 120 students in Waterpark, before they went on to learn about different areas in Bausch & Lomb, including engineering, logistics, health & safety and quality. The students then developed an interactive lesson plan on the area they learned about and presented it to 1st years.



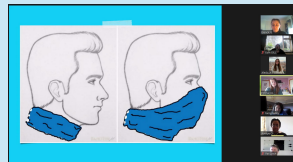
Sanofi Creative Problem Solving:

Last month we ran a day session on Creative Problem Solving for transition year students with Sanofi.

32 students from around the country took part in the workshop, which included puzzles, empathy mapping and an open-ended problem solving exercise where groups had to plan for survival in remote parts of the world.

Southeast STEM Entrepreneur camp:

Responding to a request by the HEA, Calmast teamed up with Rikon and Arclabs at WIT to develop an intensive week-long course for transition year students exploring key concepts in entrepreneurship linked to STEM: creativity, empathy mapping, ideation, design thinking and more. We had students from across the South East participating in January, and plan to run another camp in June.



South East Engineering week 2021:

A new initiative this year was the South East Engineering Festival www.engfest.ie, where ahead of the merger of IT Carlow and Waterford IT, Engineering lecturers in the two colleges came together with Calmast to run the very successful festival that reached over 6000 people. Over 2,000 engineering kits were sent free of charge to DEIS and special schools across the region. Graduates from both institutes engineers in industry in the region showcased to TY students the

Cruinniú na nÓg across the South East Region

We are delighted to be working with County Councils across the South East to promote creativity in young people as part of the [Cruinniú na nÓg](#) festival on the 12 June.

[Waterford: Moving Sculptures](#)
[Wexford: Let's Build Our Thaumatrope](#)
[My Kilkenny Automata Workshop](#)



Science Week:

Calmast has teamed up with partners across the region to develop three great local science festivals. SFI organises national Science Week and as part of this funds a number of regional science festivals to promote inclusion.

Sheila Donegan of Calmast has been organising Science Week at WIT for 23 years. Over that time there has been a continuous demand for more events and developing separate science festivals enables us to increase participation, especially with hard to reach groups.

WexSci is a young festival established by Wexford County Council in 2018 that we have been happy to be part of over the past few years. This year, Calmast will coordinate the festival in partnership with Wexford County Council. A strong partnership also includes (so far) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Danone and Johnstown Castle.

Kilkenny Science Festival was established last year in difficult Covid circumstances. The festival celebrates the culinary and cultural reputations of Kilkenny. A strong partnership is developing in Kilkenny and joining Calmast and Kilkenny County Council are companies Lighthouse Studios, Glanbia, Security Risk Advisors, Clune Technology Group, Prochem and Surfbox and visitor attractions Kilkenny Castle, Goatsbridge Trout Farm, Castlecomer Discovery Park and National Reptile Zoo.

The South East Science Festival serves the City and County of Waterford and South Tipperary. Calmast works with Waterford City and County Council and Tipperary Libraries, Waterford Area Partnership and Garter Lane Arts Centre. It is supported by companies such as West Pharma, Bausch + Lomb and Sanofi in Waterford and Abbott and MSD in the Carrick-on-Suir/ Clonmel areas.

We are always interested to hear from prospective partners for all our projects.

Good News!

Calmast is a finalist in the Education Awards in the 'Best Education Outreach' category.

The winner will be announced on 20 May 2021.

CALMAST

South East STEM Engagement Hub



The Education
Awards 2021

Best Education
Outreach Award

FINALIST

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