

All events
are FREE

**BRITISH
SCIENCE
FESTIVAL**

Southampton
16-20 September
2026

Event Guide

2026

A partnership between



BRITISH
SCIENCE
ASSOCIATION



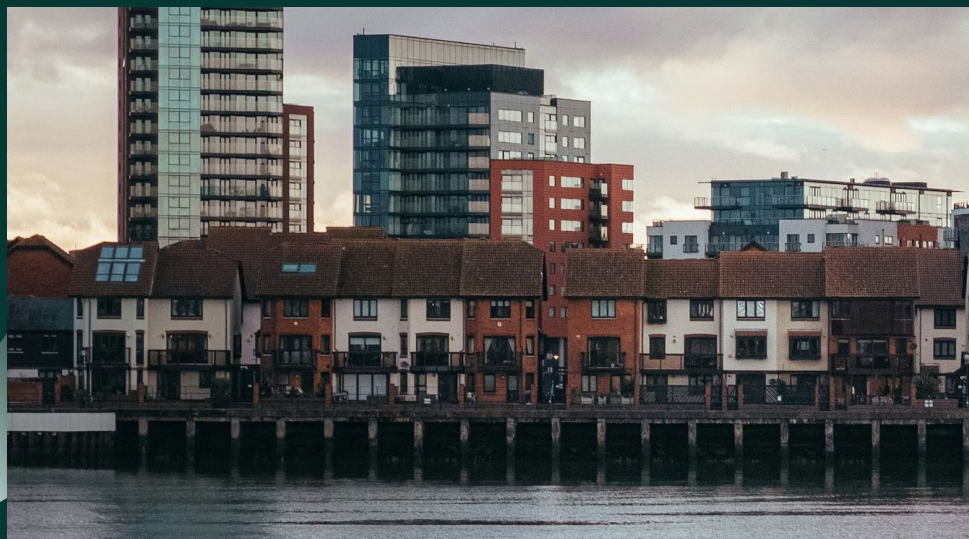
University of
Southampton



2026

British Science Festival

16–20 September



Welcome to the 2026 British Science Festival.

This year's programme really feels like it couldn't take place in any city other than Southampton.

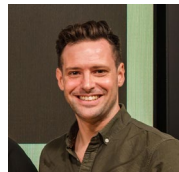
There's a strong connection to our oceans and seas – we've got events on deep-sea sharks, the history of ocean exploration, plankton-themed murals, ocean-plastic dance performances, and a newly commissioned piece of music based on research from the Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute.

How we engage with the natural world around us is a focus for this year's Festival. Whether it's discussions on climate activism, foraging for food in urban environments, or exploring sustainable farming practices through folk music and storytelling, we want to delve deeply into our relationship with our planet.

Southampton is also the home to incredible advances in health sciences and AI. The British Science Association's new President, Dame Wendy Hall, will reflect on how AI is re-shaping society and how we can take back ownership from big tech companies. We will also be exploring the links between the gut and mental health, how to combat online misinformation, healthy aging, celebrating medical professionals and focusing on reproductive and maternal health.

We've got singing fire-fighters, a church-going robot, fishy ear-stones, Japanese competitive litter picking, crystal-maze style challenges, fashion shows, comedy workshops, and so much more.

Join us in celebrating the weird and wonderful world we live in, and help shape a future that works for us all.



James Brown,
Festival Director

Get ready, Southampton!

An introduction from the University of Southampton



Professor Mark
Spearing, Vice-
President for Research
and Enterprise at
the University of
Southampton

On behalf of the University of Southampton, I am delighted to welcome you to our vibrant city for the 2026 British Science Festival.





Together with the British Science Association, we are bringing people and science together through a programme designed to spark curiosity, inspire imagination and deepen our understanding of the world around us.

Southampton is a city defined by innovation, creativity, and community. Our green city by the sea is a place where culture, discovery and ambition thrive.

We are proud that the University sits at the heart of this, driving research and innovation that can deliver impact locally, nationally and around the world.

At the University of Southampton, we are committed to investing in skills, enterprise and research for the benefit of our students, staff and the wider communities we serve. From tackling climate change and improving public health, to advancing education and addressing digital inequality, we work to make real change at every level.

I hope you enjoy everything the Festival has to offer and that it inspires new ideas, new conversations, and a lasting enthusiasm for science across Southampton and beyond.

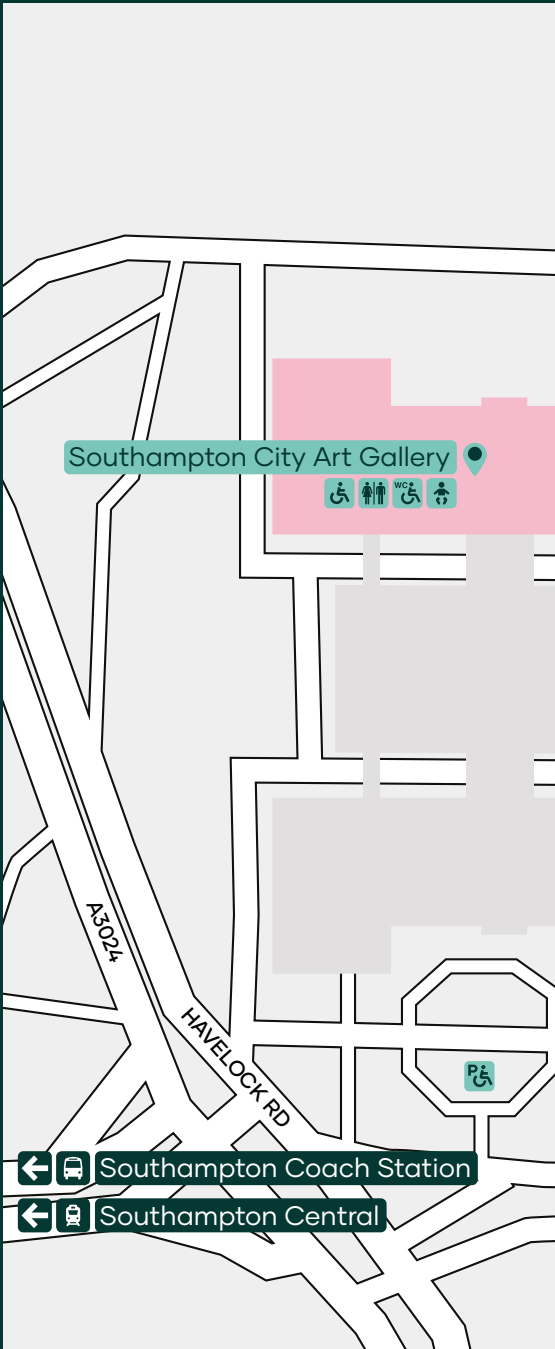
Venue Map

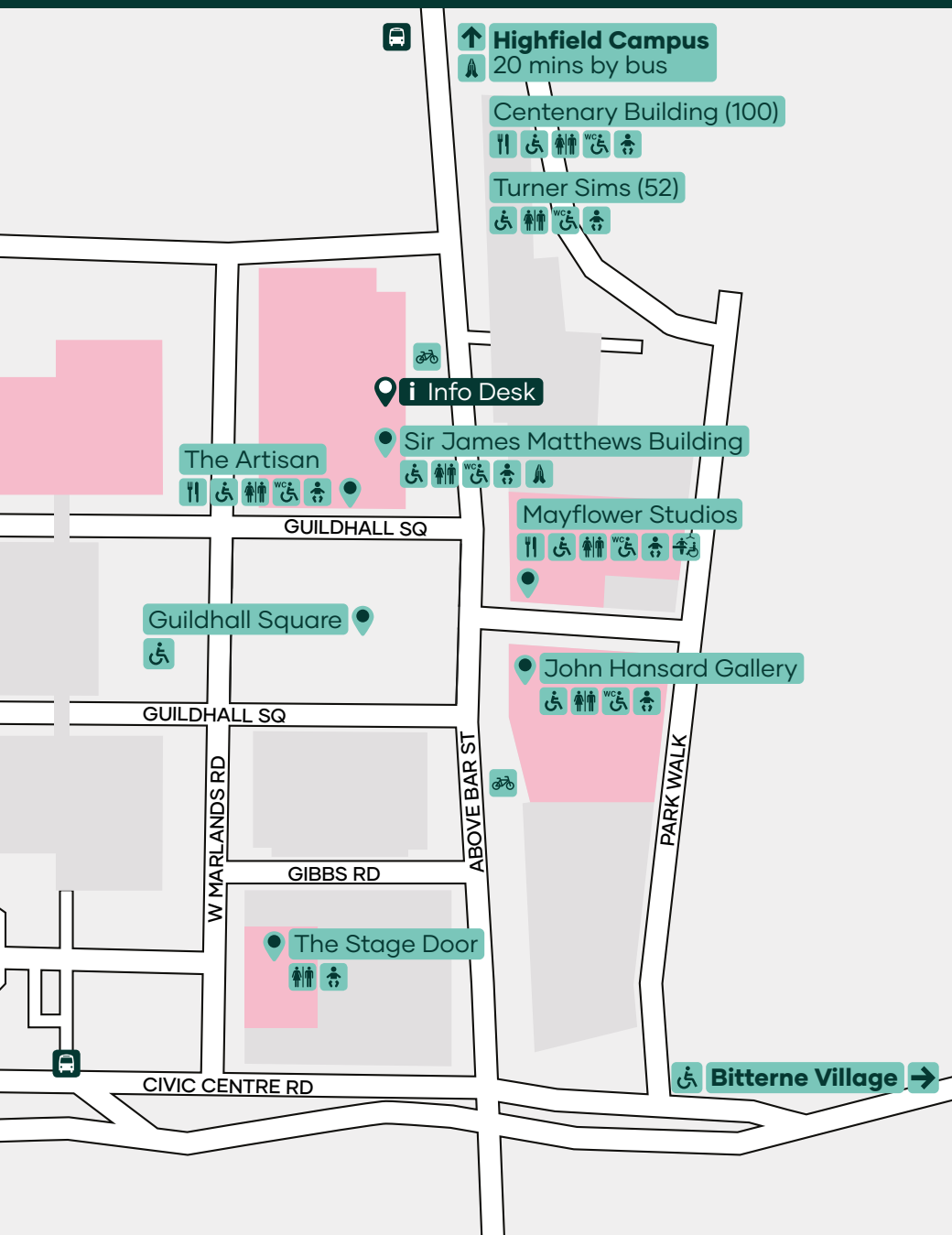
-  Food and drink
-  Accessible toilets
-  Baby changing
-  Changing places toilet
-  Quiet/prayer room
-  Toilets
-  Wheelchair accessible
-  Bicycle racks
-  Blue badge parking

-  Train station
-  Bus stop/station



For full details on directions, venues, and accessibility, visit our website at **britishsciencefestival.org** or scan the QR code.





Wednesday 16 September 2026

Drop-in The Ordnance Survey vernacular map of Southampton

Wednesday 10:00–15:00 |
Centenary Building (100)
– Main entrance

Help Ordnance Survey build a living map of Southampton using local language. Add your place names, nicknames and shortcuts, from well-known landmarks to hidden spots. Your contributions will help us better understand how people navigate the city.

Drop-in Inspire change: Circular economy with Willmott Dixon

Wednesday and Thursday
10:00–15:00 | Centenary Building
(100) – 4th floor

Small actions can make a big difference to the environment. Join Willmott Dixon for a pop-up photography exhibition celebrating how everyday changes can inspire positive impact and encourage us all to recycle, reuse and repurpose.



Talk Surgery ahead of the game

10:30–11:30 | Centenary Building
(100) – Lecture Theatre A

Have you ever played Operation? Anna Heller-Szabó (University College London) will explore how virtual reality can be used by medical professionals to practice surgery ahead of time. Find out who benefits when medicine gets a reset button.



Talk **Dark stories from deep-sea sharks**

10:30–11:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Seminar Room 4013

Until recently, our deep seas were dominated by large, long-living sharks. Join explorer, Daniel Moore (University of Exeter) to hear about how climate change is affecting these dwellers of the deep, and how this is impacting us here on dry land.



Talk **Holy motherboard!**

11:30–12:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Harvard Lecture Theatre

Have you ever met a church-going robot before? Follow Andrew Blair (University of Glasgow) on his journey to introduce a robot to a centuries-old cathedral, and get a chance to meet the robot for yourself!

Workshop Building future worlds and AI

11:30–12:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Seminar Room 3023

What might our world look like in the years ahead? Join Rory Miles (University of Southampton) and Matt Smith (University of Portsmouth) to explore AI and the future and build your own unique models of what it might look like.

Talk The deep sea dilemma

12:30–13:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Lecture Theatre A

In the darkness on the Pacific Ocean floor lies a treasure trove of minerals that could replace the fossil fuels driving climate change. Dive into the homeland of deep-sea creatures with Eva Stewart (Natural History Museum) and explore the potential consequences of mining the treasures found there.

Talk Trade in a divided world

12:30–13:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Seminar Room 4013

From Brexit to the US-China trade war, global trade is being reshaped. Discover the real effects of trade wars and rising tariffs as Meredith Crowley (University of Cambridge) explains the significant consequences for global welfare.

Talk The return of eugenics

13:30–14:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Seminar Room 3023

Eugenics is often considered an ideology of the past. However, the scientifically inaccurate belief that humans can be improved through selective breeding has never entirely gone away. Rebecca Sear (Brunel University of London) will explore how this damaging ideology has resurged throughout the 21st century.



Talk Electromagnetic art

13:30–14:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Harvard Lecture Theatre

You might have heard of an electromagnetic field, but what does it mean to create 'Electromagnetic Art'? In this electrifying talk, Tom Hyatt (Liverpool John Moores University) recounts his journey to answer this question. Watch art and science collide.



Performance The living autopsy

18:00–19:00 | Centenary Building (100) – Lecture Theatre A

Often shrouded in mystery, scientists Rebecca Hassard and Rossa Inglis (Royal College of Pathologists) will bring autopsies into the light. Join Rebecca and Rossa through a post-mortem examination, involving a 'living' dead body (played by an actor).



Performance The Ocean Remembers: Festival launch

19:00–20:30 | Turner Sims (52) – Main Auditorium

Fusing music, sound and marine research, this new work explores ocean life, environmental change and our relationship with the sea. The performance, co-commissioned by Turner Sims and created by Jason Singh and Yazz Ahmed, will be followed by a short talk to launch the Festival.

Thursday 17 September 2026

Drop in Inspire change: Circular economy with Willmott Dixon

10:00–15:00

See page 6 for further details.

Drop-in Eating for the Earth

10:00–15:00 | Centenary Building (100) – Seminar Room 4013

How many scientists does it take to fix a food crisis? Quite a few, apparently. Join a variety of different researchers from the University of Southampton to explore how what we eat shapes both our health and the planet's wellbeing.

Drop-in Mapping the human story

10:00–15:00 | Centenary Building (100) – Seminar Room 4013

Discover how data helps us understand the world and each other in new, creative ways. Researchers from the University of Southampton invite you to explore how visual stories made from human data can benefit everyone.

Talk Hidden secrets of the genome

10:30–11:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Lecture Theatre A

It's been over 20 years since the first human genome was sequenced, but we've learned much more since. Join Yan Wong (University of Oxford) on a journey through the human genome. Leave with a deeper understanding of what makes you, you.



The "Discovery" off the Antarctic Land

Workshop Across time and tide: Exploring the deep sea

10:30–11:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Seminar Room 3023

Over a century ago, the RRS Discovery embarked on her first expedition to the deep-seas. Her legacy still lives on today. Join Tammy Horton (National Oceanography Centre) and Sam Robinson (Royal Historical Society) to uncover the creatures and chronicles found beneath.

Talk AI: Doom or bloom?

12:30–13:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Lecture Theatre A

Chatbots might sound like humans, but do they think like us? Antonia Marcu (University of Southampton) unpicks how AI models really 'think', and what we can expect from our futures alongside them.

Workshop Electronic textiles

12:30–14:00 | Centenary Building (100) – Seminar Room 3023

Get ready for the next generation of fashion, with e-textiles. Alongside researchers from the University of Southampton, discover how flexible electronics can detect and monitor disease, charge mobile devices and add a whole new dimension to your wardrobe.

Talk The "forever chemicals" challenge

13:30–14:30 | Centenary Building (100) – Harvard Lecture Theatre

"Forever chemicals" have been making headlines, but what exactly are they? Join Stephanie Metzger (Royal Society of Chemistry) to explore how governments are tackling their widespread use and building a more sustainable future.



Workshop The Urbane Forager project

15:00–16:30 | Turner Sims (52)
– Foyer

Discover the hidden abundance growing all around us with the Urbane Fruit Project. 'The Urbane Forager', Alan Gibson (University of Southampton) will take you on a guided walk to explore how urban foraging can transform the way you see your city.



Performance You, Me & Debussy

18:00–19:00 | Turner Sims (52)
– Main Auditorium

Step into an immersive musical performance and experience how sound can shape our spaces and perceptions. Connect with Debussy's classical music in a modern way as you explore this creation from Drew Crawford (University of Southampton).

Talk Truth, trust and TikTok: Navigating science media in the digital age

19:00–20:00 | Centenary Building
(100) – Lecture Theatre A

Through TikTok, podcasts and online news apps, science reaches us through more channels than ever.

Join members of the Association of British Science Writers – science journalist Andy Extance and former BBC Radio Science Editor Deborah Cohen – as they explore how science journalists are adapting to this new media landscape.



Performance Call Me, Mother Nature

20:00–21:30 | Turner Sims (52)
– Main Auditorium

Mother Nature stars as keynote speaker in this unique musical-comedy from Bizaah Arts CIC. Using puppets and participation, this anarchic show gives voice to the environment, to technology and to Mother Nature herself.



Guildhall Square, Southampton City Centre

Friday 18 September 2026



Drop-in City dreams

Friday 17:00–20:00,
Saturday 11:00–17:00
John Hansard Gallery – Foyer

Describe the Southampton you wish to see and your vision will be realised. Local artist Damian Bembien has created an installation that harnesses artificial intelligence to build the city of your dreams.



Drop-in The skate equation

Friday 18:00–18:45,
Saturday 13:30–14:15 and
Sunday 15:30–16:15
Guildhall Square

Join Skate Southampton and John Hansard Gallery as they transform Guildhall Square into a skaters' haven. There's geometry in every flip and algebra in every jump. Uncover the maths required to land the trick.

Running all weekend at John Hansard Gallery

Friday 17:00–20:00, Saturday and Sunday 11:00–17:00.



Exhibition **Becoming doctors**

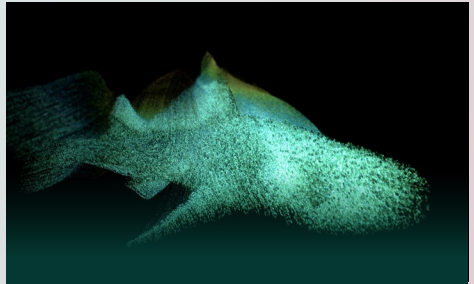
**John Hansard Gallery –
Mezzanine**

We know that doctors care for their patients, but who cares for the doctors? 'Becoming Doctors' is an exhibition of artwork by medical students (University of Southampton) that will give you a glimpse of the stories beyond the scrubs.

Exhibition **The art of creation**

**John Hansard Gallery –
Galleries 2&3**

Uncover how our early beginnings can shape the health of future generations. Combining art, science and lived experience, 'The art of creation' exhibition is a unique exploration of pregnancy and the earliest stages of life.



Exhibition **Lateral lines**

**John Hansard Gallery –
Barker-Mill Gallery**

Lateral lines are the organs that fish use to detect water and noise – a previously unimaginable blend of sound and touch. In James Wylie's immersive art installation, you can step into these aquatic senses to experience how fish perceive the world around them.

Exhibition **SOUNDSCALE: Our sonic city**

John Hansard Gallery – Foyer

This interactive exhibition brings together researchers from SOUNDSCALE (University of Southampton and the National Oceanography Centre) to explore a technology that can sense our city through vibrations. Uncover how the project collects data below our feet and how technologies may shape planning, mobility and privacy in public spaces.

Performance Retelling the land: Sustainable songs

15:30–16:30 | Stage Door

Join UK sustainable farming researchers for an immersive show blending folk music, storytelling and soil. Listen to and reflect on how land shapes us and how we shape it in return.



Performance CastAway in Bitterne

15:30–16:00, 18:00–18:30 |
Bitterne Village

CastAway (Highly Sprung) is a breathtaking outdoor performance exploring plastic pollution and climate change. Featuring an all-female cast and a unique flying machine, it will bring the underwater world to life on Bitterne Road. Inspired by the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, it will challenge you to rethink waste, sustainability and our impact on nature.

Talk Lassie's got talent

16:30–17:30 | Sir James Matthews
Building
– Lecture Theatre 2

Ever talked to a terrier or chatted with a chihuahua? We enjoy talking to our canine companions, but how much do they understand? Juliane Kaminski (University of Portsmouth) will help you find out whether your dog is down for discourse.

Drop-in Visiting future worlds and AI

17:00–20:30 | Sir James Matthews
Building – The Student Hub

How do the people of Southampton want our world to look like in the years ahead? Rory Miles (University of Southampton) and Matt Smith (University of Portsmouth) invite you to explore AI and imagined visions of the future in a collection of local-made models.



Film Screening entangled futures

17:30–18:30 | John Hansard Gallery – Screening Room

Delve into the complex interplay between human culture and the natural world. This screening of award-winning short film, presented by artists Vicky Isley and Paul Smith (boredomresearch), transforms complex biological and ecological concepts into striking visual experiences.

Talk Bite-size behaviour changes

17:30–18:30 | Sir James Matthews Building – Lecture Theatre 1

Ever promised yourself you'll eat better, then reached for the biscuits anyway? You're not the only one. Natalia Lawrence (University of Exeter) delves into the question of why we eat what we eat and why lasting changes in our diets are so hard to stick to.

Talk Adolescence, chatbots and AI intimacies

18:00–19:00 | Sir James Matthews Building – Lecture Theatre 2

What happens when AI becomes something you talk to every day?

Jessica Ringrose from University College London and her team of researchers and youth advisors explore how young people navigate AI in their daily lives.



Workshop Show Runner: Prime time with AI

18:00–19:30 | The Artisan

University of Loughborough presents Show Runner, a fast-paced collaborative game where teams run rival media studios in a world shaped by AI. Make bold choices, lobby for or against AI rules and try to keep your audience watching.

Workshop Paint your plankton portrait

18:30–20:00 | John Hansard
Gallery – Active Space

Dive into a hidden world where science meets self, alongside small, but mighty, plankton. Discover these tiny creatures through the microscope and recreate their beauty with scientist Elena Garcia-Martin (National Oceanography Centre) and street artist Joanna Ross (Good Idea Today).

Drop-in Bite-size behaviour changes: Drop-in

18:30–20:30 | Sir James Matthews
Building – The Student Hub

Ever promised yourself you'll eat better but reached for the biscuits anyway? Join psychologist Natalia Lawrence as she shares insights into habit formation, sustainable eating, and emerging approaches to support healthier choices, and gives you a chance to try them out too!



Talk Southampton and the disappearing night

19:00–20:00 | Sir James
Matthews Building
– Lecture Theatre 1

Humans are generating more light than ever, which has big consequences for our cities and the people and animals who live there. Hannah Dalglish (University of Southampton) will explore how, together, we can create a safe and healthy nighttime for all living things.

Workshop Cocktail hour in the Southern Ocean

19:00–20:00 | Venue TBC

Ever had a cocktail with a tsunami twist? How about a mocktail with a glacial garnish? Mix up a storm in a glass at this hands-on cocktail workshop with researchers from the University of Southampton and Winchester School of Art.

Performance Marine Remixed

19:30–21:30 | Stage Door

Immerse yourself with the sounds of the marine environment in this special electronic music night. Curated by Turner Sims' Assistant Producers with Southampton and IOW Music, the evening brings together young people to remix ocean recordings in dazzling live performance.

Talk Talking entangled futures

19:30–20:30 | Sir James Matthews Building – Lecture Theatre 2

What if the key to understanding nature isn't simplifying it—but staying tangled within it? This immersive talk, from artists Vicky Isley and Paul Smith (boredomresearch) blends animation, art and science to explore our deep entanglement with the more-than-human world.

Workshop The marvellously mathematical improv jam

20:00–21:30 | The Artisan

Meet maths in a new mode and make some mischief along the way with this improvised comedy workshop. Mathematics Communicator Katherine Holmes brings together everyday maths through play, comedy and creativity to explore numbers in a whole new way.

Performance Science stand-up spectacular

20:30–22:00 | Venue TBC

You know how the saying goes – Live, laugh... learn? Learning has never felt so light with researchers from the University of Southampton swapping lab coats for laughter and computers for comedy. Welcome to the Science stand-up spectacular.

Guildhall Square, Southampton City Centre

Saturday 19 September 2026

Running all weekend at John Hansard Gallery

Friday 17:00–20:00, Saturday
and Sunday 11:00–17:00.

See page 15 for further details.

Exhibition **Becoming doctors**

John Hansard Gallery –
Mezzanine

Exhibition **Lateral lines**

John Hansard Gallery –
Barker-Mill Gallery

Exhibition **The art of creation**

John Hansard Gallery –
Galleries 2&3

Exhibition **SOUNDSCALE: Our sonic city**

John Hansard Gallery – Foyer

Drop-in **City dreams**

11:00–17:00 | John Hansard
Gallery – Foyer

See page 14 for further details.

Drop-in **Creative conceptions**

11:00–14:30 | John Hansard
Gallery – Active Space

Explore stories of pregnancy, heritage and identity in this vibrant, interactive workshop co-designed by local Black and South Asian parents, artists and scientists. Engage in open conversation as we reflect on how we can shape better health outcomes for the next generation.



Workshop **Yoga for health**

11:00–12:00 | Southampton City Art Gallery – Main Hall

Downward dog and pigeon pose your way into better health in this yoga class with a twist. Researchers from the University of Southampton explore how science and yoga can meet to fuel your body and brain throughout your life.

Drop-in **Future AI: Play and imagine**

11:00–17:00 | Sir James Matthews Building – Study Zone

As AI makes itself more at home in our day to day lives, it's time to take the technology into our own hands. Step into the future of AI and join researchers from the University of Southampton in a hands-on Crystal Maze-style adventure game.

Drop-in **Invisible illness through AI eyes**

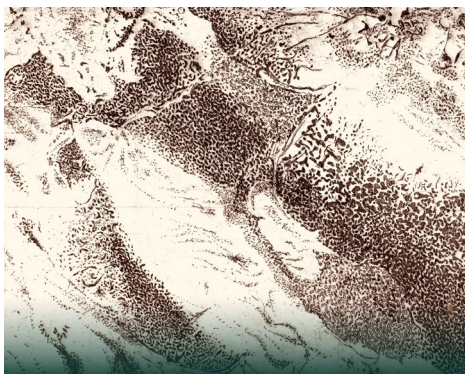
11:00–17:00 | Sir James Matthews Building – The Student Hub

Researchers from the University of Southampton, artists and the local community explore how AI is transforming our understanding of hidden diseases. Play games and get hands-on with art and exhibits to reveal the invisible workings of our diverse bodies.

Drop-in **Collective unconscious**

11:00–17:00 | Southampton City Art Gallery – Main Hall

Explore the collective unconscious, the part of your mind shaped by instinct, rather than personal experience, in this origami workshop. Join Elyzia Pyrite and the ZEST Collective to co-create a large paper sculpture that will grow throughout the day.



Drop-in The cheek of it!

12:00–18:00 | Mayflower Studios – Bar & Café

We are made of cells, but do cells make us who we are? Catherine McColgan explores this question in a zine-making drop-in and offers the chance to view yourself through lenses of creativity and curiosity.

Drop-in Eye can make music

12:00–17:00 | Mayflower Studios – Bar & Café

Music making just got more accessible. Join Chi Ying Lam (University of Southampton) and Lee Cheng (Anglia Ruskin University) as they guide you through the game technology required to make music with your eyes.

Drop-in Meals, mood and microbes

12:00–17:00 | Guildhall Square

What your meals are made of can change your emotions and it's all down to your gut microbes. Join artists and University of Southampton researchers for a vibrant street festival, featuring painting, games, music and food, and celebrate gut-brain health.



Drop-in From microscope to mural: Plankton portraits

12:00–17:00 | Guildhall Square

Take a moment to celebrate the small but mighty plankton that play a big role in the health of our oceans. Join artist Joanna Ross as she transforms plankton portraits created by Festival attendees into an outdoor mural.



Drop-in **From waste to feast**

12:00–17:00 | Guildhall Square

Waste not, want not. See how today's waste could become tomorrow's dinner. From cardboard to coffee grounds, roll up your sleeves and tuck in with Leicester garden community, African Oasis, to transform scraps into fertile soil and superfoods.



Workshop **Microbes unmasked**

12:00–13:00 | Southampton City Art Gallery – Education Room

You might find microbes in mud, but it's not a dirty word! Sandra Wilks (University of Southampton) invites you to come and create microbial art to unmask how microbes can support your health and wellbeing.

Performance **CastAway in Guildhall Square**

12:30–13:00, 15:00–15:30
Guildhall Square

CastAway (Highly Sprung) is a breathtaking outdoor performance exploring plastic pollution and climate change. Featuring an all-female cast and a unique flying machine, it will bring the underwater world to life in Guildhall Square. Inspired by the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, it will challenge you to rethink waste, sustainability and our impact on nature.



Talk Music for climate action

12:30–13:30 | Mayflower Studios
– Studio 1

From grassroots movements to major festivals, live music is engaging new audiences with the climate crisis.

Join science communicator Zion Lights, climate justice activists Dominique Palmer and Tori Tsui and music industry leaders to explore the power of live music to drive climate action.

Drop-in The skate equation

13:30–14:15 | Guildhall Square
See page 14 for further details.



Drop-in Clothed with protection catwalk

12:30–14:30 | Southampton City
Art Gallery – Main Hall

‘Just as clothing protects us from the outside world; so vaccinations create a layer of protection from infection.’ Admire a spectacular catwalk show, curated by artist Luke Jerram and scientist Chrissie Jones (University of Southampton) for the Clothed with Protection project, showcasing Ugandan fashion and vaccine promotion.

Drop-in The play protocol

13:00–17:00 | John Hansard
Gallery – Foyer

Join researchers from the University of Southampton in a fast-moving game where research meets politics, public opinion and chance. Play snakes-and-ladders with a twist and explore what shapes science beyond the lab.

Exhibition **Climate <=> Technology Justice**

13:30–15:00 | John Hansard Gallery – Gallery 1

Digital tools and how they impact equality is often called digital justice. But how does this connect to the climate in an increasingly digitised life? Join artists Angela YT Chan and Alexandra (Sasha) Anikina in entering the digital justice booth to explore this question.

Workshop **Laughter: The lab report**

13:30–15:00 | Mayflower Studios – Studio 3

Join Comedy Lab UK to explore how humour is more than just a laughing matter. Uncover a deeper understanding of how comedy can support mental and emotional wellbeing. After all, they say laughter is the best medicine.

Workshop **Transformed by Roman fire: From ashes to art**

14:00–15:30 | Southampton City Art Gallery – Education Room

In the Roman era, a fire saw the destruction of a Southampton pottery warehouse. But what remains today? Become a detective of the deep, discover and draw the artefacts left buried below with the archaeology team at Southampton City Council and artist Lucie Smith.

Talk **Future AI: Reflect and debate**

15:00–16:00 | Sir James Matthews Building – Lecture Theatre 2

As AI makes itself more at home in our day to day lives, it's time to ask the question; who is AI for? Join Dame Wendy Hall (University of Southampton) and Zoe Kleinman (BBC Technology) to explore how we can shape the future of AI.



BSL

Talk **Who's influencing your health?**

15:00–16:00 | Mayflower Studios – Studio 1

Is social media hijacking our health? Join doctor and former Traitors contestant Kasim Ahmed, sex educator Milly Evans, researcher Rachael Kent and journalist Cécile Simmons to explore how we can distinguish between fact and fad to tackle health misinformation online.

Performance **The Ocean Remembers**

15:30–16:15 | Southampton City Art Gallery – Main Hall

A very special performance of The Ocean Remembers, a new performance by Jason Singh and Yazz Ahmed. Presented by Turner Sims and Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute, the piece explores the human and more-than-human life of our blue planet.

HAVE I GOT SCIENCE FOR YOU

WITH YOUR HOST
LIAM COLLINS-JONES

FEATURING
ALICE MORRELL, KATE SLADE

Performance **Have I got science for you?**

16:00–17:00 | Mayflower Studios – Studio 2

Think University Challenge, but make it funny, and you get 'Have I got science for you'. Here, five scientific researchers from five different UK universities will compete to break down the biggest and most bizarre science stories of the year.

Workshop **Eye can play**

17:00–18:00 | Mayflower Studios – Studio 3

What if making music didn't require hands? Well, meet EyeLa, a VR rhythm game controlled through eye movement. Chi Ying Lam (University of Southampton) and Lee Cheng (Anglia Ruskin University) invite you to play and explore the experiences of SEN/D children.



Performance **The Cambridge First All-Ladies Fire Brigade**

18:00–19:30 | Mayflower Studios – Studio 1

Meet the most significant British scientist you've never heard of, in a concert performance of this fiery new musical about friendship, rebellion, and choosing action over silence.

Performance **Duality: Listen to Light**

19:30–21:30 | Turner Sims (52) – Main Auditorium

Step into an evening of quantum curiosity, sonic wonder and music. Join Elinor Twyeffort (University of Southampton) and John Trill (University of Oxford) on a journey through our understanding of how light and matter interact.

This event is being run by the University of Southampton PERu team.

Performance **Generate: Creative responses to AI research**

19:30–20:30 | Mayflower Studios – Studio 2

Explore the real-life impacts of AI with Mayflower's work-in-progress Performance. Developed in collaboration with researchers (University of Southampton) who work on AI applications across health, archaeology and music, Generate invites you to encounter AI in immediate, imaginative and thought-provoking ways.

Guildhall Square, Southampton City Centre

Sunday 20 September 2026

Running all weekend at John Hansard Gallery

Friday 17:00–20:00, Saturday
and Sunday 11:00–17:00.

See page 15 for further details.

Exhibition **Becoming doctors**

John Hansard Gallery –
Mezzanine

Exhibition **Lateral lines**

John Hansard Gallery –
Barker-Mill Gallery

Exhibition **The art of creation**

John Hansard Gallery –
Galleries 2&3

Exhibition **SOUNDSCALE: Our sonic city**

John Hansard Gallery – Foyer



Workshop **Southampton's Spogomi showdown**

10:00–12:30 | The Artisan

It's time to trash the competition in competitive litter picking. Originating in Japan in 2008, Spogomi combines "sport" with gomihiroi (Japanese for picking up rubbish). Grab a teammate or enter solo and be part of the solution, not the pollution.

Drop-in Mapping the air we share

11:00–17:00 | Sir James Matthews Building – The Student Hub

It's time to take a breather and reflect on what you can do to improve air quality in our city. The Faculty of Medicine (University of Southampton) offers you the chance to use microscopes and maps of the air we share.

Drop-in Engineering better health

11:00–17:00 | Sir James Matthews Building – Study Zone

From engineers to medics and patients, everyone can play a part in shaping the future of health, and that includes you. Join researchers from the Faculty of Medicine (University of Southampton) to explore what happens when technology and medicine collide.

Drop-in Nightjar: Making the heath a home

11:00–17:00 | John Hansard Gallery – Foyer

The Nightjar is a mysterious nocturnal bird that migrates to UK land from Africa for breeding in late spring. Join New Forest National Park rangers to explore how they study and protect this iconic bird and its habitat.



Workshop Nightjar: Bird migration and belonging

11:00–13:00 | John Hansard Gallery – Active Space

When birds leave British shores, do you wonder where they go?

Named after the mysterious nocturnal bird species, Nightjar is a creative workshop led by a group of artists (African Activities CIC) exploring migration, climate change and shared futures.

Film **Matter, light, frame**

11:00–17:00 | John Hansard
Gallery – Foyer

Physics is a huge field covering wonders from space to gravity, light to sound. To explore its magnitude and magnificence, The Institute of Physics presents *Matter, light, frame*; a collection of creative films made through the lens of physics.

Drop-in **How we map Great Britain**

11:00–17:00 | Sir James Matthews
Building – The Student Hub

Join Ordnance Survey to see how modern mapping works in practice. Get hands on with real surveying equipment and learn how surveyors map the nation to help people find their way and support essential services.

Drop-in **Chickpeas, culture and cuisine**

12:00–17:00 | Guildhall Square

Are you ready to take on the mighty chickpea? Join researchers from the School of Biological Sciences (University of Southampton) to cook up a storm in celebration of the chickpea and discover how small foods can spark big, sustainable change.



Film **Plan Z: Should scientists get arrested for climate action?**

14:00–15:00 | Sir James
Matthews Building
– Lecture Theatre 2

Scientists risk arrest at a protest in the name of a safer climate. Film makers Louisa Jones and Vladimir Morozov present *Plan Z*, a short documentary and panel discussion exploring the world of activism and the power of protest when the usual avenues for change fail.



Workshop See, sketch, sew: Crafting a slower city

15:00–17:00 | John Hansard
Gallery – Active Space

What happens if we slow down in a city that's usually speeding? In this creative workshop, local author-artists Nazneen Ahmed Pathak and Yarrow Townsend will guide you to notice, appreciate and celebrate the diversity of nature around us in Southampton.

Film The People's Emergency Briefing

15:30–17:00 | Sir James Matthews
Building – Lecture Theatre 2

The climate crisis threatens all aspects of British life, from security to food – but solutions do exist. Explore more with a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing, along with a panel discussion with leading researchers and activists. This is your emergency briefing – who's next?

Drop-in The skate equation

15:30–16:15 | Guildhall Square

See page 14 for further details.

Talk Maths within and beyond us

16:00–17:00 | Sir James Matthews
Building – Lecture Theatre 1

Mathematics is everywhere, shaping the world around us. Join Katerina Kaouri (Cardiff University) on a storytelling journey exploring how maths helps us make sense of the world around us, the connections between us and our lives within.

What's on

Wednesday

16 September

Don't miss



The living autopsy

18.00–19.00

Centenary Building (100) –
Lecture Theatre A

Event type

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Talk |  Film |
|  Workshop |  Exhibition |
|  Performance |  Drop-ins |

	Lecture Theatre A	Seminar Room 3023
9.30		
10.00		
10.30	Surgery ahead of the game	
11.00		
11.30		Building future worlds and AI
12.00		
12.30	The deep sea dilemma	
13.00		
13.30		The return of eugenics
14.00		
14.30		
15.00		
15.30		
16.00		
16.30		
17.00		
17.30		
18.00	The living autopsy	
18.30		
19.00		
19.30		
20.00		
20.30		
21.00		

What's on

Thursday

17 September

Don't miss



Call me, Mother Nature

20.00–21.30
Turner Sims (52) –
Main Auditorium

Event type

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Talk |  Film |
|  Workshop |  Exhibition |
|  Performance |  Drop-ins |

Lecture Theatre A

9.30

10.00

10.30

11.00

11.30

12.00

12.30

13.00

13.30

14.00

14.30

15.00

15.30

16.00

16.30

17.00

17.30

18.00

18.30

19.00

19.30

20.00

20.30

21.00

21.30

Hidden secrets
of the genome

AI: Doom or bloom?

Truth, trust and TikTok:
Navigating science media
in the digital age

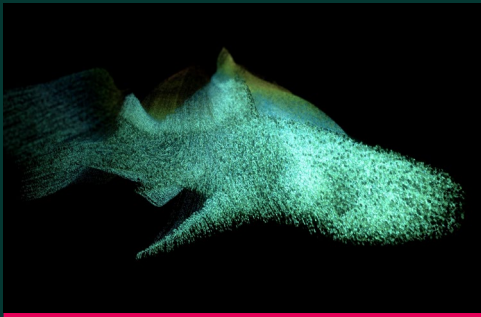
Highfield Campus, University of Southampton						
Centenary Building (100)				Turner Sims (52)		
Seminar Room 3023	Seminar Room 4013	Harvard Lecture Theatre	4th Floor			
Across time and tide: Exploring the deep sea	☐ Eating for the Earth ☐ Mapping the human story		Inspire change: Circular economy with Willmott Dixon			
Electronic textiles						
		The "forever chemicals" challenge				
						The Urbane Forager project
				You, Me & Debussy		
				Call me, Mother Nature		

What's on

Friday

18 September

Don't miss



Lateral lines

17.00–20.00

John Hansard Gallery –
Barker-Mill Gallery

Event type

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Talk |  Film |
|  Workshop |  Exhibition |
|  Performance |  Drop-ins |

	Foyer	Mezzanine
16.30		
17.00	☐ SOUNDSCALE: Our sonic city	Becoming doctors
17.30		
18.00	☐ City dreams	
18.30		
19.00		
19.30		
20.00		
20.30		

	Lecture Theatre 1
16.00	
16.30	
17.00	
17.30	
18.00	Bite-size behaviour changes
18.30	
19.00	
19.30	Southampton and the disappearing night
20.00	
20.30	
21.00	

Southampton City Centre			
John Hansard Gallery			
Active Space	Screening Room	Barker-Mill Gallery	Galleries 2 & 3
		Lateral lines	The art of creation
	Screening entangled futures		
Paint your plankton portrait			

Southampton City Centre		
Sir James Matthews Building		
Lecture Theatre 2	The Student Hub	
Lassie's got talent	Visiting future worlds and AI	
Adolescence, chatbots and AI intimacies		
		Bite-size behaviour changes: Drop-in
Talking entangled futures		

What's on

Friday

18 September

continued

Don't miss



The skate equation

18.00–18.45

Guildhall Square

Event type

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Talk |  Film |
|  Workshop |  Exhibition |
|  Performance |  Drop-ins |

The Artisan

15.00

15.30

16.00

16.30

17.00

17.30

18.00

18.30

19.00

19.30

20.00

20.30

21.00

21.30

22.00

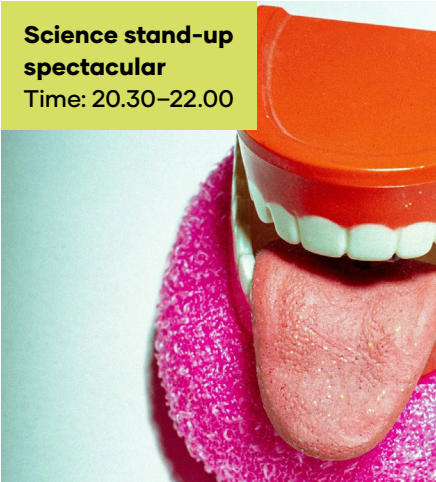
22.30

Show Runner:
Prime time with AI

The marvellously
mathematical improv jam

Science stand-up spectacular

Time: 20.30–22.00



Southampton City Centre			Bitterne Village
Stage Door	Venue TBC	Guildhall Square	
Retelling the land: Sustainable songs			CastAway in Bitterne
		The skate equation	CastAway in Bitterne
	Cocktail hour in the Southern Ocean		
Marine remixed			
	Science stand-up spectacular		



What's on

Saturday

19 September

Don't miss



SOUNDSCALE: Our sonic city

11.00–17.00

John Hansard Gallery –
Foyer

Event type

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Talk |  Film |
|  Workshop |  Exhibition |
|  Performance |  Drop-ins |

10.30

11.00

11.30

12.00

12.30

13.00

13.30

14.00

14.30

15.00

15.30

16.00

16.30

17.00

17.30

18.00

Foyer

-  SOUNDSCALE:
Our sonic city
-  City dreams

The play
protocol

City dreams

Time: 11.00–17.00



Southampton City Centre				
John Hansard Gallery				
Gallery 1	Mezzanine	Active Space	Barker-Mill Gallery	Galleries 2 & 3
	Becoming doctors	Creative conceptions	Lateral lines	The art of creation
Climate <=> Technology Justice				



What's on

Saturday

19 September

continued

Don't miss



Future AI: Reflect and debate

15.00–16.00

Sir James Matthews Building – Lecture Theatre 2

Event type

Talk

Workshop

Performance

Film

Exhibition

Drop-ins

Sir James Matthews Building	
Lecture Theatre 2	Study Zone
10.30	
11.00	Future AI: Play and imagine
11.30	
12.00	
12.30	
13.00	
13.30	
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14.30	
15.00	
15.30	
16.00	
16.30	
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19.00	
19.30	
20.00	
20.30	
21.00	

Southampton City Centre				
	Mayflower Studios			
The Student Hub	Studio 1	Studio 2	Studio 3	Bar & Café
Invisible illness through AI eyes				
	Music for climate action			☐ Eye can make music (finishing at 5pm) ☐ The cheek of it!
			Laughter: The lab report	
	Who's influencing your health?			
		Have I got science for you?		
			Eye can play	
	The Cambridge First All-Ladies Fire Brigade			
		Generate: Creative responses to AI research		

What's on

Saturday

19 September

continued

Don't miss



CastAway in Guildhall Square

12.30–13.00 | 15.00–15.30
Guildhall Square

Event type

- | | |
|---|--|
| Talk | Film |
| Workshop | Exhibition |
| Performance | Drop-ins |

Southampton City Art Gallery

Main Hall

10.30

11.00

Yoga for health

Collective unconscious

11.30

12.00

12.30

Clothed with protection catwalk

13.00

13.30

Catwalk performance at 12.30 and 14.00

14.00

14.30

15.00

15.30

The Ocean Remembers

16.00

16.30

17.00

17.30

18.00

18.30

19.00

19.30

20.00

20.30

21.00

21.30

22.00

22.30

What's on

Sunday

20 September

Don't miss



Nightjar: Making the heath a home

11.00–17.00

John Hansard Gallery – Foyer

Event type

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Talk | Film |
| Workshop | Exhibition |
| Performance | Drop-ins |

Foyer

10.30

11.00

Nightjar: Making the heath a home

11.30

Matter, light, frame

12.00

SOUNDSCALE:
Our sonic city

12.30

13.00

13.30

14.00

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15.30

16.00

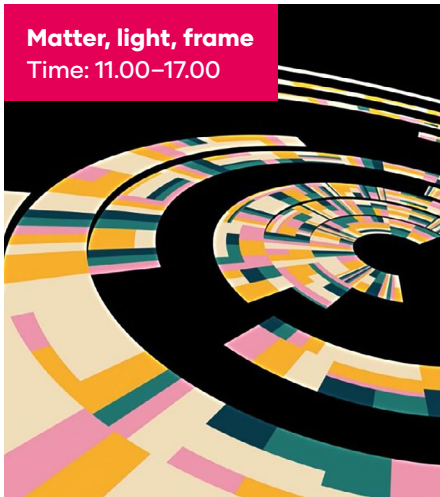
16.30

17.00

17.30

Matter, light, frame

Time: 11.00–17.00



Southampton City Centre			
John Hansard Gallery			
Mezzanine	Active Space	Barker-Mill Gallery	Galleries 2 & 3
Becoming doctors	Nightjar: Bird migration and belonging <i>(Workshop sessions at 11.00 and 12.15)</i>	Lateral lines	The art of creation
	See, sketch, sew: Crafting a slower city		



What's on Sunday 20 September continued

Don't miss



**Southampton's
Spogomi showdown**
10.00–12.30
The Artisan

Event type

Talk

Film

Workshop

Exhibition

Performance

Drop-ins

Sir James Matthews Building	
Lecture Theatre 1	Lecture Theatre 2
09.30	
10.00	
10.30	
11.00	
11.30	
12.00	
12.30	
13.00	
13.30	
14.00	Plan Z: Should scientists get arrested for climate action?
14.30	
15.00	
15.30	The People's Emergency Briefing
16.00	
16.30	Maths within and beyond us
17.00	
17.30	
18.00	
18.30	

Chickpeas, culture and cuisine

Time: 12.00–17.00

A close-up photograph of a large pile of cooked chickpeas, showing their characteristic wrinkled texture and light brown color.

Southampton City Centre				
		The Artisan	Guildhall Square	
Study Zone	The Student Hub			
		Southampton's Spogomi showdown		
Engineering better health	☐ How we map Great Britain			
	☐ Mapping the air we share			Chickpeas, culture and cuisine



**The People's
Emergency Briefing**
Time: 15.30–17.00

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