



9th - 16th November 2025

**THEN
TODAY
TOMORROW**



Óliver
Téicneolaíochta
an Aibéiligh
Atlantic
Technological
University

abbvie



SCIENCE FAIR

Sunday 9th November 12.00 – 5.00pm

Family Event Explaining Science in a Fun Way (All Ages)

The Annual Science Fair at ATU Sligo will include a wide range of performances, interactive displays and demonstrations for all the family to enjoy. Experiments, Discovery and lots of fun guaranteed for both children and adults.

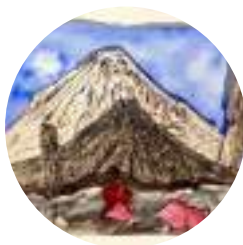


Who are You Callin' Airhead with Thunderbolts & Lightening

AbbVie Theatre – 12.15, 2.00 & 4.00pm

Who you callin' Airhead?! Steve has a new hobby. He's a bit of an air head. Long suffering friend Bob wants to know more, though soon he'll wish he'd never asked. Join them for this ridiculous adventure of nonsense, one-upmanship and hovercrafts*. Who knows? You might even learn something along the way. This entertaining and educational science show experiments with air, pressure and Bernoulli's principle.

*Contains actual hovercraft



Desert Bloom with Circus 250 (for young children)

Room B1201 – 12.30 & 1pm

Desert Bloom, by Chilean/Irish performer Angelica Santander, is the charming story of the lifecycle of a beautiful red flower that lives in the Atacama Desert in Chile, South America. This special plant blooms only once every ten years. What does it need to blossom? Using dance, storytelling and puppetry of the insects from the region, Angelica brings this tale alive for small children. The performance is followed by a short interactive session where the children play with the puppets.



The Electrifying Energy Show with Jay Ryan (all ages)

Room A0004, 12.15, 1.30 & 4.15pm

This spellbinding Show introduces children to the principles of energy plasma and electricity. Tesla Cords Vortex Generators, even a van De Graff machine will help children understand the power of energy in this exciting interactive show. The Scientist will spark children's imagination in a fun and informative show for all ages.



Mad Professor with Niall O'Dwyer (all ages)

Room A0006 - 1.00, 2.00 & 4.00pm

Fun and interactive science experience. Join the Mad Professor on a journey through many principles of science seeing how everyday items help shape the world of science.



Juanita's Big Problem from Circus250

B1201 12.45 & 4.00pm – Age 7+ yrs

Juanita the cleaner has been collecting all the plastic in her life for one whole year. But what's she going to do with all this rubbish? Will it really get recycled? So she asks you, the audience, to help her reduce single use plastic. Never has saving the planet been so funny. A one woman clown show by leading female clown Angelica Santander.



Science - It's like Magic but real... with Graham Hewston (All ages)

Room A0005 - 12.45, 2.10 & 4.10pm

In this fun-filled presentation Graham will draw the fine line between science and magic and then we will explore the consequences of crossing and double-crossing that line! Highlights include: confusing illusions, silly socks, wandering water, mysterious floating objects and things which shrink or grow just by looking at them. Get ready for this interactive show to sort out the magic from the science.



AbbVie Presents: Rocket Show with Wonderstruck

(All ages at Hume Hall - 12.30 & 3.00pm)

So how does a rocket engine work? Well, this show has all the answers. It also explains the difference between solid and liquid propellant motors and follows the history of rocket science from the days of the Ancient Chinese to modern space tourism. All of this is accompanied by fireballs, rapidly burning fuels a demo of our very own hybrid rocket moto!

Interactive Displays and Demonstrations



Science on Stilts with Circus250

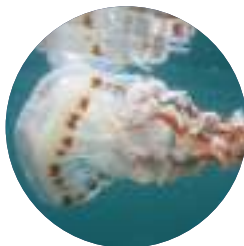
Do you look up to scientists? Well now you really can! Science on Stilts is a walkabout performance where real life scientists – who are also accomplished stiltwalkers – do simple science experiments with you! They'll stop on their stilts to have scientific chats with anyone who has high ambitions to learn more about science.



Hula Hoop Galaxy with Circus250

all over ATU

Walkabout act Hula Hoop Galaxy will charm the crowd with her head-spinning, hula hooping tricks



The Wonder of Marine Life with Robin Barry (All ages)

B1081 – All day

Experience the wonderful magic of the Marine World around us and learn how to identify different seashore species edible and non-edibles, such as shellfish, seaweed plants, fish, birds and mammals emphasizing the importance of protecting marine life from the dangers of plastics entering our waterways. Join Robin for a journey of marine life discovery.



Test your physical ability!

Follow the signs and step into ATU Sligo's brand-new teaching gym, test your abilities, and win prizes with James Blee



Pre-school Science Room (1-7 years) with Maia Purposeful Play

Room B1082

Maia Purposeful Play offers children hands-on opportunities to dive into scientific concepts through open-ended play experiences designed to spark curiosity. Children can experiment with resources, build, and create, discovering how science and creativity connect in engaging ways. With sensory stations, construction challenges, and nature-based exploration, young minds will learn through play, connecting concepts like balance, gravity, and problem-solving. This experience is all about nurturing a love for discovery and showing children how science is part of everyday life. Come along to see the magic of STEAM learning in action-fun for all ages!



Nature Challenge with Michel Bell of Nature Learn (All ages)

Room B1080 – All day

Learn about the wonderful flora and fauna to be found in Co Sligo with hands on displays, quizzes to test your nature knowledge and live minibeasts to examine up close.

Join Michael to learn more about the amazing nature on our doorstep!



Anyone4science presents CSI-Can you work out who did it?

Concourse

We will teach you how to do chromatography and other chemistry tests performed by forensic scientists. Then you can test the evidence from the crime scene and from the various suspects and see if you can find out who is the guilty one.



DIY Protein Snack

Room B2061 from 1pm onwards

Join Dr Mahrokh Jamshidvand in the ATU Nutrition food product kitchen to make your own tasty and healthy protein bars! Learn how different ingredients like oats, nut butters, and protein powder give your body energy and help keep you strong. Get hands-on, create your own flavour combinations, and take home a snack you made yourself.



Concourse Displays



EU Green

ATU is a partner in EU GREEN, a European university alliance with an overall aim to increase sustainability in peripheral regions of our continent. The nine European partners are strategically aligned to engage their education, research, innovation, communities and enterprise towards developing sustainable solutions locally, regionally and globally.



The Mountain Rescue team

Concourse all day

The Mountain Rescue Team displays its equipment and abseiling techniques



Sligo Garda Siochana

Concourse all day

Members of the local Garda Siochana talk about crime prevention.



Sligo Bay Life Boat Services

Concourse all day

Take the opportunity to meet the volunteers and members of Sligo and Leitrim emergency services, hear their stories and see the equipment they use.



Sligo Civil defence

Stand on Concourse/ B1021 -All day



Order of Malta

Canteen - All day



Birdwatch Ireland

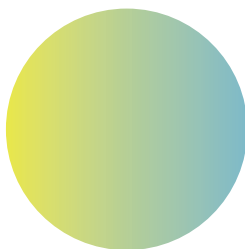
Main reception all day



Ocean FM

Canteen all day

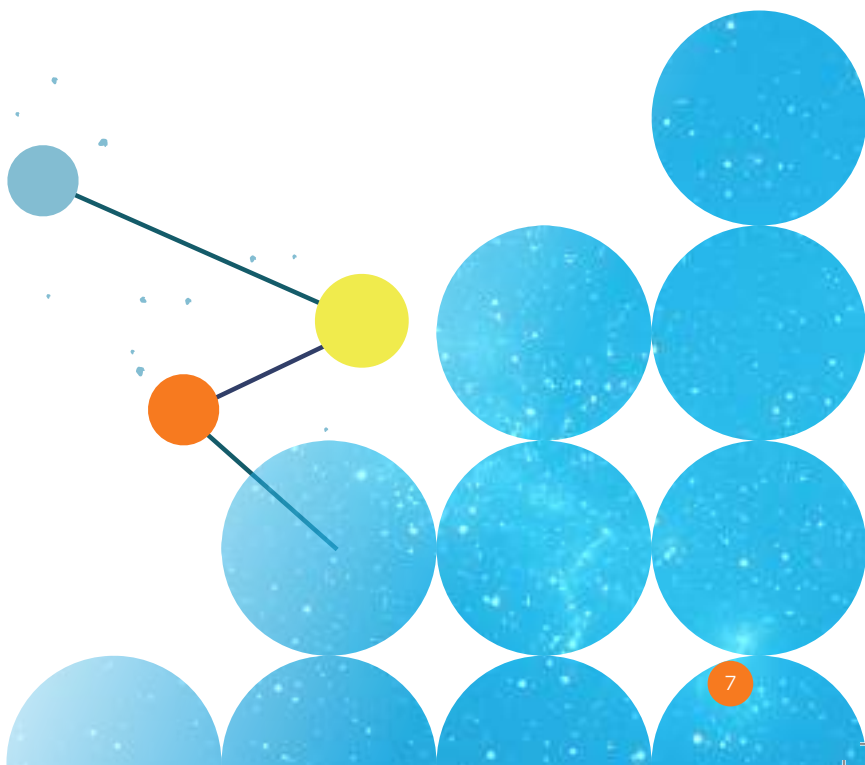
Ocean FM will be broadcasting all afternoon live with special guests throughout



Schools Area

Concourse 12.30 – 2.30pm

Visit our Primary Schools Science area to view videos and exciting experiments and activities demonstrated by primary school pupils from Sligo town and county.



SCIENCE WEEK EVENTS

This year's Sligo Science Festival includes an exciting mix of immersive and thought provoking events for both children and adults alike! For schools activities please contact our festival co-producer, Dr Eamon Laird - eamon.laird@atu.ie

Monday 10th November



Wonderstruck SpinBots workshop

10-10.45am

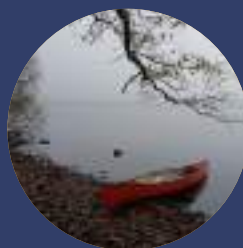
In-Person Workshop with Wonderstruck 10am - At your School only event (6-7 yr olds)! These unpredictable little robots shoot off in all directions! Powered by a simple electrical circuit that spins a ball under their base, our SpinBots rest on three legs and are always a bit off balance. That means it's impossible to know where they're going to go and when they'll change direction! This is a short workshop (about 45 mins) specifically designed for our younger prospective scientists.



Jay Electricity Show

10-10.45am / 1-1.45pm

This spellbinding Show (In-person) introduces children to the principles of energy plasma and electricity. Tesla Cords Vortex Generators, even a van De Graff machine will help children understand the power of energy in this exciting interactive show! The Scientist will spark children's imagination in a fun and informative show for all ages.



Riverlife Kayak exploring (18 yrs+)

10-11am

Join us for a unique 1-hour guided canoe trip down the River Bonet in Canadian canoes, led by Adventure Gently, as part of Science Week at ATU College. This immersive experience allows participants to observe diverse ecosystems, wildlife, and plant life along the riverbanks. You'll gain insights into hydrology by understanding how rivers flow, the impact of water currents, and how water shapes the surrounding landscape. During the trip, our guides will touch on important topics like environmental science, highlighting how human activities, pollution, and climate change affect our waterways. Additionally, you'll explore the geological history of the region, deepening your appreciation of the natural world. This is a hands-on opportunity to connect scientific theory with the rich, dynamic environment around us.

Get your free tickets now on Eventbrite as this event is limited!



Bugs for Life Workshop with Thunderbolts & Lightening

10am & 1pm

First up, you'll learn a little bit about entomophagy (eating insects) and the work of the charity 'Bugs For Life', cofounded by Thunderbolts & Lightening's own Craig Macfarlane, with a community in Benin, West Africa. Then, it's time to get creative and design and decorate your own bug farm ready for your very own insects – darkling beetle larvae, otherwise known as mealworms, an extremely popular edible insect. To finish, if you are feeling adventurous enough, you can try some mealworms for yourself in a tasty treat -yum!



Wonderstruck MicroPlanes workshop

1-2pm

In-Person Workshop with Wonderstruck 1pm - At your School only event (8-12 yr olds)! Investigate the principles of flight by building simple rockets and aircraft and then taking them on a test flight! Pupils work in pairs or individually to build simple rockets or aircraft from card templates. We then launch them from our unique compressed air launchers to see how far they fly. Teams can experiment with adding weight, adding and adjusting flaps and rudder control and even building a simple aerofoil wing to generate lift!



Fallout Sligo (Sligo Nuclear bunker) (18 yrs+)

6-7pm

Join us for a series of ATU talks at Sligo's very own nuclear bunker! Talk 1: "Nuclear Nutrition - What's for Dinner When the Sky's on Fire?" from Dr Eamon Laird, Public health Nutrition. Talk 2: "Build It & Bunker Down - Nuclear Bunker Design" from Dr Gul Johkio, Civil Engineering & Construction. Talk 3: "Thirst for Survival - Water Systems When It's Raining Fallout" Dr Ruth Quinn, Head of Department Civil Engineering & Construction ATU.

Reserve your free tickets now on Eventbrite as this event is limited!



Architecture of Sligo and Works with Wendy Lyons at Sligo Masonic Hall (18 yrs+)

7.30-8.30pm

Wendy Lyons is conservation consultant specialising in the use of traditional materials alongside modern interventions. She is also highly experienced in the local history of County Sligo in both built and natural history. Wendy will give a fascinating talk on her work and the wonderful collection of historic landscapes and buildings that we often take for granted.

Not to be missed event – get your free tickets on Eventbrite now!

Tuesday 11th November



Wonderstruck SpinBots workshop

10-10.45am

In-Person Workshop with Wonderstruck - At your School only event! These unpredictable little robots shoot off in all directions! Powered by a simple electrical circuit that spins a ball under their base, our SpinBots rest on three legs and are always a bit off balance. That means it's impossible to know where they're going to go and when they'll change direction! This is a short workshop (about 45 mins) specifically designed for our younger prospective scientists.

Run in conjunction with Sligo Leader - contact ktonry@sligoleader.com to get your school involved!



Bee Science Show

10-11am / 1-2pm

Ever wondered what the world looks like through the eyes of a bee? How do these tiny superheroes use sound and static electricity to gather pollen? Join Dr. Naomi Lavelle for her Bee Science Show, where science meets fun and adventure! Dive into the incredible world of bees, pollination, and seed-spreading with hands-on experiments and exciting surprises. Things might get a little EXPLOSIVE (don't say we didn't warn you!), so bring your curiosity and wonder and get ready to be blown away. This show promises to leave you BUZZING with excitement about our pollinator pals!



Geophysical Survey and Remote Sensing reveal new Monuments at Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery

**7-8pm AbbVie Lecture theatre
ATU Sligo**

Join Dr James Bonsall, Head of Archaeological Geophysics and Remote Sensing at Archaeological Management Solutions, specializing in geophysical surveying, LiDAR and Remote Sensing, as he talks through recent surveys of the Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery. James will present the exciting discovery of new monuments and future possibilities of how we can learn more about this fascinating archaeological site. This research was funded by the Royal Irish Academy.

Not to be missed event – grab your free tickets on Eventbrite now!

 Acadamh Ríogana Éireann
Royal Irish Academy





Wonderstruck MicroPlanes workshop

1pm

In-Person Workshop with Wonderstruck - At your School only event! Investigate the principles of flight by building simple rockets and aircraft and then taking them on a test flight! Pupils work in pairs or individually to build simple rockets or aircraft from card templates. We then launch them from our unique compressed air launchers to see how far they fly. Teams can experiment with adding weight, adding and adjusting flaps and rudder control and even building a simple aerofoil wing to generate lift!

Run in conjunction with Sligo Leader - contact ktorny@sligoleader.com to get your school involved!



Bugs for Life Workshop with Thunderbolts & Lightening

10am & 11:30am

First up, you'll learn a little bit about entomophagy (eating insects) and the work of the charity 'Bugs For Life', cofounded by Thunderbolts & Lightening's own Craig Macfarlane, with a community in Benin, West Africa. Then, it's time to get creative and design and decorate your own bug farm ready for your very own insects – darkling beetle larvae, otherwise known as mealworms, an extremely popular edible insect. To finish, if you are feeling adventurous enough, you can try some mealworms for yourself in a tasty treat -yum!

Run in conjunction with Sligo Libraries - this event will be at Ballymote Community Library if you want your school involved! Email shealy@sligococo.ie

ATU Partnerships for Innovation, Enterprise and Growth (18 yrs+)

7-9pm The Model Sligo

Grab your free tickets on Eventbrite now!



ATU Partnerships for Innovation, Enterprise and Growth

Presented by RISE@ATU

Learn more about turning past, present, and future research into real-world opportunities, showcased through industry success stories and providing new collaboration opportunities.



The Model, Sligo
Tuesday 11th November
7pm - 9pm



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Tionól Ráigiúnaíochta
an Tuaiscirt & an Iarthair
Northern & Western
Regional Assembly

HEA
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
INDEPENDENTLY ACCREDITED

RISE@ATU is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-27.

Wednesday 12th November



Jay Electricity Show

10-10.45am / 1-1.45pm

This spellbinding Show (In-person) introduces children to the principles of energy plasma and electricity. Tesla Cords Vortex Generators, even a van De Graff machine will help children understand the power of energy in this exciting interactive show! The Scientist will spark children's imagination in a fun and informative show for all ages.



Wonderstruck Fan-Powered Car workshop

10am & 1pm

In-Person Workshop with Wonderstruck - At your School only event! They're cars, powered by fans! In the Fan-Powered Car Workshop, participants build, test and improve their cars and we find the best one with an exciting race-off at the end. Pupils work in teams of three to build a prototype Fan-Powered Car to a fixed design. They test the prototype to establish a benchmark performance and are then given access to different components to try to improve the performance of their cars.

Run in conjunction with Sligo Leader - contact ktonry@sligoleader.com to get your school involved!



Who are You Callin' Airhead with Thunderbolts & Lightening

10am & 1pm

'Who you callin' Airhead?! Steve has a new hobby. He's a bit of an air head. Long suffering friend Bob wants to know more, though soon he'll wish he'd never asked. Join them for this ridiculous adventure of nonsense, one-upmanship and hovercrafts*. Who knows? You might even learn something along the way. This entertaining and educational science show experiments with air, pressure and Bernoulli's principle. *Contains actual hovercraft

Run in conjunction with Sligo Libraries - this event will be at Sligo Central Library if you want your school involved! Email lbrett@sligococo.ie



Science Communication Thunderbolts & Lightening ATU Donegal

4-6pm

Come along and join Nicola from Thunderbolts and Lightning for an interactive workshop that offers a taste of creative ways to communicate science beyond the classroom. With a background in performance, Nicola brings her passion, tools, and skills to the world of informal science education and outreach, creating engaging educational theatre and delivering workshops across the globe. If you're curious about new approaches to science communication and passionate about making science accessible to all, this is your chance to have some fun and get hands-on with tools and techniques designed to connect with audiences who may not have a science background.

Grab your free tickets now on Eventbrite as this event is limited to 18 spaces!



Cross Sections: Building, Designing, Engineering (18 yrs+), The Model Sligo

7-9.30pm

Join us for an evening exploring the many sides of engineering and architecture. From the risks of AI to inequalities in design, from the carbon footprint of our buildings to the potential of hydrogen as a future fuel, these talks will explore how we shape the world we live in. We'll finish with a quiz with some amazing prizes to test your knowledge!

Grab your free tickets now on Eventbrite



The Green Fort Archaeology Project; AbbVie Lecture theatre ATU Sligo

7-8pm

Join Dr Fiona Beglane from ATU Sligo, who was co-director of the excavation of 'Green Fort', a 17th century bastioned fort located on Fort Hill, in Rathquarter townland in Sligo town during June 2025. This was carried out by students of the Certificate in Archaeological Excavation and Post-excavation and the Certificate in Archaeological Field Studies. Students came from Ireland, the US, Canada, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Kosovo, and Ukraine and were joined by community volunteers funded by Sligo Co Council. Dr Beglane will give a stimulating talk on the background of the excavation some of the exciting finds of the project.

Grab your free tickets on Eventbrite now!

Thursday 13th November



Wonderstruck Fan-Powered Car workshop

10am & 1pm

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Bee Science Show

10-11am / 11.30-12.30pm

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Run in conjunction with Sligo Libraries - this event will be at Tubbercurry Community Library if you want your school involved! Email skelly@sligococo.ie



Who are You Callin' Airhead with Thunderbolts & Lightening

10am & 1pm

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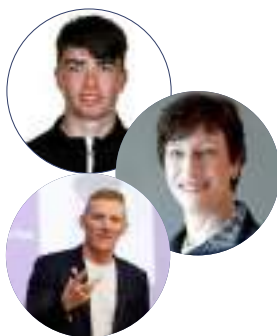


Science Communication Thunderbolts & Lightening ATU Sligo

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Grab your free tickets now on Eventbrite as this event is limited to 18 spaces!



Fuelling Sports Performance (all age groups)

6-8pm Glasshouse Sligo

Dr Kevin Cradock from ATU Sligo presents an exciting evening of talks from the world of sport. Speakers will include Ruth Wood-Martin, Performance nutritionist and IRFU's Head of Nutrition. She will be talking about fuelling sports performance in the rugby context and her long spanning career in this area. Others speakers include local Sligo rower and gold medal winner Brian Colsh who will be talking about how science and nutrition fuels his performance. We also have Sleep expert Tom Coleman discussing how sleep is the secret fuel of health and performance for athletes of all levels! Finally, keep an eye for special guest speakers who might make an appearance!

Get your free limited tickets now on Eventbrite!



ISTA Senior Science Quiz for Schools

7pm ATU Sligo Room A0006

The annual ISTA science quiz sponsored by AbbVie.

The Irish Science Teachers' Association, Eol Oidí na hÉireann, is the professional association for teachers of science in the Republic of Ireland. As such it is represented on the relevant subject development groups of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. Since its foundation in 1961 it has been providing continuous professional development and support for its members at both national and branch levels. The Association has close affiliations with the Association for Science Education in the UK and is a founding member of ICASE, the International Council of Associations for Science Education. It is also represented on SCIENTIX which promotes and supports a Europe-wide collaboration among STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) teachers, education researchers, policymakers and other STEM education professionals. Members are also supported and informed of developments through the Association's website (www.ista.ie) and through its Journal, SCIENCE, which is posted to members three times a year.



**Sligo Science Social
‘The Nature of
Immersion’ (18yrs+)**

**7-9pm Thomas Conolly Pub,
Sligo**

Dr Martin O'Neill presents a social evening of science focusing on the nature of immersion with exciting guest speakers exploring virtual tools with real impact for a healthier tomorrow.

Get your free limited tickets now on Eventbrite!



**Surgical and Autopsy
Pathology Practice**

**8-9pm Sligo Courthouse
(>18yrs)**

An engaging talk by Dr. Paul Hartel in the area of pathology practice & autopsy in the atmospheric old room of Sligo Courthouse! Dr. Hartel is Clinical Lead Consultant Histopathologist at Sligo University Hospital & clinical Associate Professor with the Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at West Virginia University School of Medicine. He is active in teaching and research and has been invited to speak nationally and internationally, and as expert witness for Irish and US law firms.

Reserve your free tickets now on Eventbrite!

Friday 14th November



Wonderstruck Fan-Powered Car workshop

10am & 1pm

In-Person Workshop with Wonderstruck - At your School only event! They're cars, powered by fans! In the Fan-Powered Car Workshop, participants build, test and improve their cars and we find the best one with an exciting race-off at the end. Pupils work in teams of three to build a prototype Fan-Powered Car to a fixed design. They test the prototype to establish a benchmark performance and are then given access to different components to try to improve the performance of their cars.

Run in conjunction with Sligo Libraries - this event will be at Tubbercurry Community Library if you want your school involved! Email skelly@sligococo.ie



Moon-walk starlight night hike (>18yrs)

8-10pm Sligo Slishwood

The Science Week Night Hike is back! Join the team from Northwest Adventure Tours for a fun and fact-filled starlight night hike on Friday at 8pm. Trek under the dark skies of Slishwood Forest trail, as the guides bring the sky to life with stories of old celestial traditions in Sligo, and help guide your eyes through the cosmos of stars, planets and distant galaxies. Discover how the Star Wars origin story is based off events in Sligo and relax under the stars while enjoying a warm drink brewed by the guides and hear from a professional night sky photographer who will be on hand to provide some advice for capturing the night sky in all its glory. Be sure to bring your cameras along and pick up some new tips along the way. Northwest Adventure Tours torches will light the way through this ancient landscape that is steeped in history and astronomical connections. The hike will coincide with the Leonids Meteor Shower, the last great shooting star show of the year, heads up and you might be lucky enough to spot a few!

Get your very limited free tickets on Eventbrite now!



Dr. Richard Nairn Birdwatch Ireland Don Cotton Memorial Lecture

**8-10pm Sligo Education
Centre near ATU**

'R.J. Ussher: a giant among Irish naturalists'.

Richard J. Ussher was a leading Irish naturalist of the Victorian period and early 20th century. He is best known as the principal author of a landmark book *The Birds of Ireland* (1900). He was also a passionate explorer of caves and recovered the fossil bones of many extinct Irish animals. This talk will compare the bird and mammal communities recorded by Ussher with those of today.

Richard Nairn is an ecologist who has published ten books so far including a trilogy on nature in Ireland. His latest book is entitled *Future Wild: Nature Restoration in Ireland*. He is currently working on a biography of Ussher. He lives on a farm in Co. Wicklow which is managed primarily for nature.

Book your free tickets now on Eventbrite!

Saturday 15th November

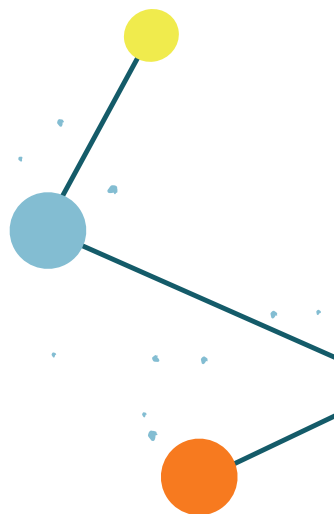


The Rocket Show by Wonderstruck

2.30pm The Rocket Show by Wonderstruck

So how does a rocket engine work? Well, this show has all the answers. It also explains the difference between solid and liquid propellant motors and follows the history of rocket science from the days of the Ancient Chinese to modern space tourism. All of this is accompanied by fireballs, rapidly burning fuels a demo of our very own hybrid rocket moto!

Book your free tickets now on Eventbrite!



Sunday 16th November



Riverlife Kayak exploring (18 yrs+)

11-12.30pm

Join us for a unique 90minute guided canoe trip down the River Bonet in Canadian canoes, led by Adventure Gently, as part of Science Week at ATU. This immersive experience allows participants to observe diverse ecosystems, wildlife, and plant life along the riverbanks. You'll gain insights into hydrology by understanding how rivers flow, the impact of water currents, and how water shapes the surrounding landscape. During the trip, our guides will touch on important topics like environmental science, highlighting how human activities, pollution, and climate change affect our waterways. Additionally, you'll explore the geological history of the region, deepening your appreciation of the natural world. This is a hands-on opportunity to connect scientific theory with the rich, dynamic environment around us.

Grab your free tickets now on Eventbrite as this event is limited!

Thanks

Sligo Science Festival Organisers sincerely thank Partners, Local Businesses and Community Groups for their support, including but not limited to:

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