Biology Week 2015

Thank you very much for your interest in Biology Week. Through the week we aim to share our enthusiasm for biology with as many people as possible. Your support will allow us to maximise our impact and give people of all ages and backgrounds the chance to learn about the biosciences. [Updates](http://www.rsb.org.uk/biologyweek) and [events listings](http://www.rsb.org.uk/events) can be found on the Royal Society of Biology website. For more information or to get involved please contact Natasha Little (natasha.little@rsb.org.uk, 0207 685 2553).

Event ideas

**Lectures:** scientists from local universities, charities and companies made ideal speakers.

**Hands-on activities or workshops:** opportunities include having stands at events such as village fairs or a Big Biology Day (below), inviting people to your lab, or organising your own drop-in event. If you are looking for inspiration, we have ideas for all kinds of activities so please get in touch.

**Work with students:** this can include talks at schools or universities, or organising visits to your lab to let people see your working life. Careers advice is often appreciated and your local school will be pleased to hear from you. [STEMNet](http://www.stemnet.org.uk/) works to facilitate visits to schools from scientists and engineers.

**Debates or discussions:** both panel debates and facilitated discussions (perhaps in the style of [Cafe Scientifique](http://www.cafescientifique.org/)) can work well. Many topics in biology either leave scientists divided or are accompanied by ethical issues which need to be resolved. These make ideal debate topics, and by organising an event you can give members of the public the chance to develop and express their opinions. Royal Society of Biology staff have lots of ideas they would be happy to share, and will be organising debates during the week which may provide inspiration for twin events. We are keen to support anyone wanting to speak openly about the use of [animals in research](https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/policy-issues/biomedical-sciences/animal-research/concordat-on-openness).

Our [planning an event guide](https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/branch/Running_a_succesful_event2.docx.pdf) may also be helpful. Practicalities to take into account when planning an event include whether you have a venue or money to book a venue. Ideal venues include university lecture theatres, school or village halls, and a private room in a pub. You may also wish to provide refreshments. Speakers often need to be booked well in advance and will normally be reimbursed with travel expenses.

Take part in an existing event

There are events already taking place which you can contribute to or organise an event alongside…. **Quiz**

The Royal Society of Biology, along with its Member Organisations, creates an annual quiz which schools, pubs and anyone wishing to organise a quiz night are free to use. Please get in touch with Natasha if you would like to receive a copy of the Biology Week quiz.

**Existing Events**Please see the [events page](http://www.rsb.org.uk/events) for an up to date list of events.

If you are a researcher

We are keen for researchers to run their own events, whether they are for other scientists of members of the public. There are lots of opportunities for scientists to meet members of the public to share their research. Your local school will be pleased to hear from you, as will your local Cafe Scientifique ([www.cafescientifique.org](http://www.cafescientifique.org)). You are welcome to use the Biology Week logo on any materials you produce, and we would be pleased to use a write-up of the event on our blog or in *The Biologist*. The Royal Society of Biology has a public engagement [grant scheme](https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/grants/regional-grant-scheme).

If you are a teacher please visit our Biology Week [schools pages](https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/biologyweek/schools).

Publicising your event

We are hoping to have as many people as possible involved in Biology Week, and we are able to help advertise your events. You are very welcome to use the Biology Week logo.

**The Society of Biology website:** Please fill in the template form at [www.rsb.org.uk/biologyweek](http://www.rsb.org.uk/biologyweek) and email it to Natasha to add to the website. Events will be featured in our monthly e-newsletter which goes out on the last Thursday of each month.

**Social media:** We will advertise events on Twitter (@RoyalSocBio) and Facebook. The hashtag for Twitter users is #BiologyWeek.

**Your local paper:** many papers have an event section, and their website will have contact details. Alternatively you can send a press release (details at [www.rsb.org.uk/biologyweek](http://www.rsb.org.uk/biologyweek)).

**Posters:** a sample poster will be available at [www.rsb.org.uk/biologyweek](http://www.rsb.org.uk/biologyweek). Everyone is welcome to use the Biology Week logo and Royal Society of Biology local branches are welcome to use the Royal Society of Biology logo.

Thank you for your help!