

What's on today?

5 July 2025

To view the full exhibition programme, scan the QR code or visit royalsociety.org/summer



Talks and activities

All talks and activities are free and do not require a ticket.

Talks

Admittance for our talks is first come, first served. Spaces are limited, so we advise you arrive at least 10 minutes before the advertised start time.

All our talks have live subtitles and some will be live streamed on our YouTube channel.

Drop-in activities

These activities run continuously and you can drop in at any time. Please note if the venue is at capacity you may have to wait.

12 noon

Talk



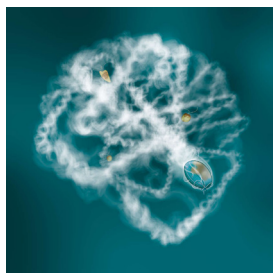
Bridging games, art and science

Basement

Blending art, science and play, Robin Baumgarten is an interactive artist and hardware game developer whose work invites creativity and hands-on exploration. Robin will share his journey from AI researcher and mobile game developer to creator of interactive art and experimental installations.

1pm

Talk



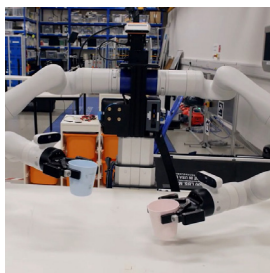
Stolen body parts, entrapment, paralysis – unseen battles in the Ocean

Basement

You might have never heard of mixoplankton before, but they are survivors battling their way through the sunlit ocean and here's your chance to hear their story and watch them in action. Dr Aditee Mitra, member of the UK Young Academy, is a marine ecologist, specialising in predator-prey interactions in plankton food-webs.

2pm

Talk



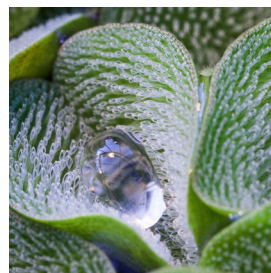
Using generative AI for planning and action in robotics

Basement

Generative AI has transformed human-machine interaction – producing text, images, and video with remarkable fluency. But what would a similar breakthrough mean for robots? Join Professor Ingmar Posner, a robotics expert addressing core challenges of robot learning, to explore AI systems that learn from observations.

3pm

Talk



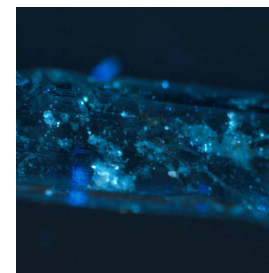
Tricks and traps: how pitcher plants catch insects

Basement

Step into the fascinating world of carnivorous plants and their insect prey with Dr Ulrike Bauer, Royal Society University Research Fellow at the University of Exeter. Find out about the latest surprising discoveries and unravelled previously unknown trapping mechanisms.

4pm

Talk



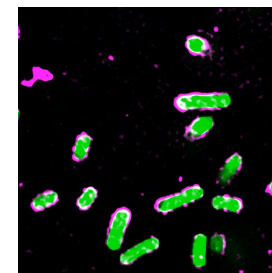
Salty secrets: the search for life on Mars

Basement

Salt minerals on Mars reveal a complex history of saline surface waters and groundwaters. As they grow, they trap the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. If life existed on Mars, it may be preserved in these minerals. Palynologist Dr Martha Gibson has over 10 years' experience studying microscopic organic remains.

5pm

Talk



Can origami made of DNA help us kill superbugs?

Basement

Join Dr Ioanna Mela, chemical engineer and Royal Society University Research Fellow, as she reveals how tiny DNA nanostructures are being designed to precisely target bacteria and deliver antimicrobial agents. These microscopic marvels could boost the impact of existing antibiotics and offers a new promising way to combat antibiotic resistance.

10am – 6pm

Drop-in activity



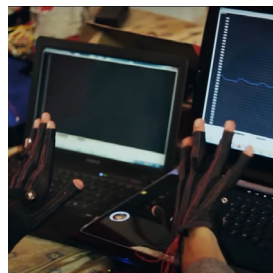
**Tech through time:
exploring
communication
of the past**

City of London room 1

Join Rugby Art Gallery and Museum for an engaging hands-on activity exploring the fascinating evolution of communication technologies. From the tap of a telegraph to the dial of a rotary phone, young explorers will handle authentic artifacts and delve into the stories behind these revolutionary inventions.

10am – 6pm

Drop-in activity



**Sound explorers:
discover inclusive
music-making**

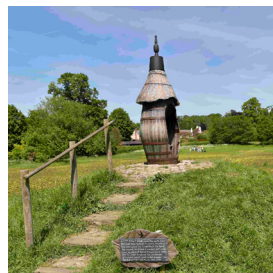
City of London room 1

Join Drake Music for a fun, hands-on experience with a range of accessible musical instruments and inclusive music technology. Try out innovative tools designed for all abilities and discover new ways to create sound, rhythm, and melody – no musical experience needed.

Musicians from the London Philharmonic Orchestra will also be present, contributing to the sessions and performing alongside participants.

10am – 6pm

Drop-in activity



Migrant journeys

City of London room 2

Make your own moth or butterfly while you learn about these exceptional migration journeys, and the impact of climate change, with the team from Gilbert White's House and Gardens, funded through the Royal Society's Places of science scheme.

10am – 6pm

Drop-in activity



**How pitcher plants
catch insects**

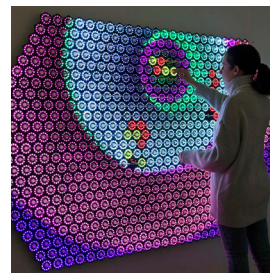
City of London room 2

Step into the feet of an ant and experience how insect-eating pitcher plants outsmart their prey. Explore how specialised surfaces, viscoelastic secretions and rain-powered springboards help these extraordinary plants to secure a meal.

Research at the Exeter Mechanical Ecology Lab focuses on understanding how carnivorous plants exploit physical principles to their advantage.

10am – 6pm

Drop-in activity



Quantum jungle

Kohn Centre

Step into the Quantum Jungle, an interactive installation that combines tactile springs and light to bring the concept of quantum particles to life.

Designed by engineer, designer, and artist Robin Baumgarten, this one-of-a-kind art installation offers an engaging way to explore the fascinating world of quantum mechanics.

10am – 6pm

Display



**Michael Faraday's
gold colloids**

Wolfson 2

Alongside the NanoGlow main exhibit, learn about one of the world's earliest known examples of nanoscience: Michael Faraday's gold colloid solutions, held in the archive at the Royal Institution (Ri) and on display at the Royal Society during the Summer Science Exhibition.