



Braintree
District
Museum

News Release

Braintree District Museum

Manor Street
Braintree
CM7 3HW
www.braintreemuseum.co.uk

Contact

Jennifer Rowland
01376 325266
info@braintreemuseum.co.uk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Braintree District Museum beams out to space

As part of its 'Body Science' program Braintree District Museum is pleased to announce a special 'Body Science Saturday' event on 19 March as part of British Science Week, open 10am – 4pm.

In partnership with Mad Science, Colchester Institute, Braintree District Council's Livewell Campaign and Southend RaspberryPi Jam the Museum will be offering an experiment-filled, action-packed family day of fun. Admission to the day is free with lots to see and do including free drop-in activities all day. Mad Science will be launching the event with an explosive show at 10:30am, and don't forget to also take the opportunity to explore the fully interactive 'Body Science' exhibition. The exhibition has already proved very popular, receiving over 300 visitors in its first week.

The two key themes of 'Body Science' are the senses and how to stay healthy, which will be reflected in all the activities on the day. Drop-in activities will include aromatherapy workshops with Do Terra and chemistry experiments with Mad Science (this stand will be open 11am-2pm and costs just £2 per child to take part). The Museum is also hosting free senses experiments exploring sound and sight using the Raspberry Pi with Andy @SouthendTech. As part of this visitors will get the chance to learn more about some great experiments and competitions linked to British ESA Astronaut Tim Peake's *Mission Principia* on the International Space Station (ISS).

Parents - are you are mystified by the coding that your children are doing at school or just curious about how computers really work? Children – would you like the chance to compose some music that could be played on the International Space Station? Our drop in Astro Pi and Sonic Pi activities will be the perfect way to discover what this Pi business is all about and how our hearing works! Tim Peake has issued two competition challenges to UK students. Staying fit and healthy is as important on the ISS as it is here on earth and Tim likes listening to music whilst doing his daily exercise. One of the challenges is to write a tune in Sonic Pi (a music program on the Raspberry Pi) for Tim to listen to on an MP3 player. No previous experience of Sonic Pi is necessary and there will be a chance to try out the program here at the Museum on the day! There will also be the chance to analyze sensor data

from the ISS (subject to availability by 19 March!). Computers and Raspberry Pis will be available, but visitors are also encouraged to bring their own laptops where possible to help as many visitors as possible take part.

There will also be two pre-bookable 'Body Science' workshops run by Colchester Institute, both taking place at 11:00am and repeated at 1:30pm. This includes a digital animation workshop focusing on fruit smoothies, during which participants will learn the basic skills needed to make a digital animation, and also how important fruit is to keep us healthy. Workshop tickets cost just £3 per child per workshop and spaces are limited so advance booking is advised – call 01376 328868 to book.

Jennifer Rowland, Education and Exhibitions Curator at the Museum, said 'Our British Science Week 'Science Saturdays' are always popular with families but this year is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever! Thank you to all our partners who are making the day possible and we really hope the day will help lots of local families discover more about how the human body works and make new technological developments fun and accessible for all'.

For further information on any of the above or to book visit the website www.braintreemuseum.co.uk, email info@braintreemuseum.co.uk or call 01376 328868.

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Summary of Activities:

Body Science Saturday
Open 10am – 4pm

MAD SCIENCE SHOW
10:30am—10:50am (FREE)

DROP-IN ACTIVITIES (FREE)
10:00am—4:00pm

- Take part in astronaut Tim Peake's SonicPi experiments in space! Connect to an AstroPi on the International Space Station! (Bring a laptop if you have one)
- Explore sound, light, colour blindness, infrared light and reaction times with the RaspberryPi
- Discover the senses through drop in experiments
- Explore the Body Science interactive exhibition
- Aromatherapy Workshops with DoTerra

MAD SCIENCE DROP-IN CHEMISTRY EXPERIMENTS (£2 per child)

BOOKABLE WORKSHOPS - In partnership with Colchester Institute (£3 per child per workshop)

11:00am - 12:00pm Digital Animation Workshop

Learn how to make a short animation film themed around fruit

11:00am - 12:00pm Science Workshop

1:30pm - 2:30pm Digital Animation Workshop

Learn how to make a short animation film themed around fruit

1:30pm - 2:30pm Science Workshop

About Braintree Museum

Braintree District Museum conserves and celebrates the history of Braintree and its surrounding areas, focusing on the District's industrial and cultural achievements and its many notable personalities. The Museum's main galleries chart the history of the town from the prehistoric era up to the 21st century, focusing on Braintree's archaeology, industry and craftsmanship. Exhibits include artefacts discovered in the local area, and dedicated galleries on Crittall Windows and Courtauld textile manufacturing. For more information visit braintreemuseum.co.uk and follow us @museumbraintree on Twitter and on Facebook.

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