



Cambridge Hands-On Science (CHaOS)

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Cambridge students cause CHaOS at family science events!

Press release: CHaOS Science Roadshow 2012 (immediate release for July 2012)

We are holding free public events in St Albans on Saturday 7th July (St Albans Town Hall, 11am – 4pm), Wheathampstead on Sunday 8th July (Wheathampstead Village Weekend, 1 – 5pm), and we are visiting schools in Hertfordshire on Friday 6th July and between Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th July.

This July, students from Cambridge University are planning to cause CHaOS at family events all around the country. But don't panic – CHaOS stands for “Cambridge Hands-On Science”, and children and families who visit our events will find that science can be fun as well as messy!

The Roadshow involves 70 students, with up to 20 CHaOS on the road at any time. They camp every night and travel by minibus to each of the venues. Why do they take time out of their summer for our events? This year's president Anna Hughes, a PhD student studying how camouflage affects our perception of motion, explains why:

“CHaOS is all about breaking down the barriers that prevent children and families seeing that science is fun, relevant and something they can understand. We want to dispel the myth that all scientists are old men with crazy hair and white coats, and to share the enthusiasm we have for our subjects. You know you've made a difference when you see a child's eyes light up, particularly if they told you five minutes previously that they thought science was difficult and boring! My favourite comment is from a previously sulky 13 year old boy, who told his teachers that 'it was actually quite interesting.' For me, that makes it all worthwhile!”

At each event the CHaOS team set up around 15 different experiments covering all areas of science. Visitors' favourite activities include extracting the DNA from kiwi fruit, getting messy in gooey cornflour, building their own bridges and making mini explosions using lemon juice and baking soda. You might get a shock if you meet Boris, an adult-sized model skeleton who likes to see as many of our visitors as possible, and has been known to shake them by the hand!

The CHaOS Science Roadshow is run entirely by student volunteers. The planning team of over 20 people has been very busy since October. The Roadshow is funded by a number of charitable organisations (detailed below). The mixture of fun events, evenings on the camp site, and the thrill of making emergency repairs with gaffer tape attract many volunteers back year after year.

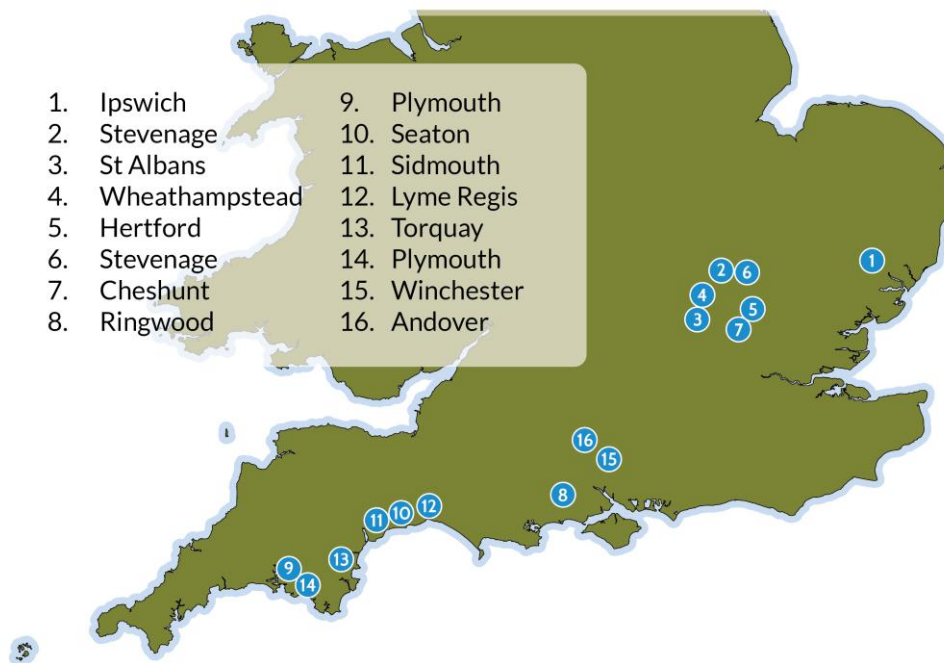
The CHaOS Roadshow provides an opportunity for children and families to meet engaging young scientists with a passion for their subject, in the biggest student-led science roadshow in the UK. This is the 11th annual Summer Roadshow, and the organisers hope that it will be the best CHaOS Summer Roadshow yet!

The Roadshow Route:

Monday 2 nd – Wednesday 4 th July:	Visiting schools near Ipswich.
Friday 6 th July:	Visiting schools in Stevenage.
Saturday 7 th July:	Free public event, 11 am – 4 pm, St Albans Town Hall.
Sunday 8 th July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Wheathampstead Village Weekend.
Tuesday 10 th – Thursday 12 th July:	Visiting schools in Hertfordshire
Saturday 14 th July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood, Hampshire
Monday 16 th – Wednesday 18 th July:	Visiting schools in Plymouth
Friday 20 th July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Seaton Town Hall
Saturday 21 st July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Stowford Community Centre, Sidmouth
Sunday 22 nd July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Lyme Regis Marine Parades Shelter (Lister and Langmore rooms)
Tuesday 24 th July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Torquay Town Hall
Wednesday 25 th July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Plymouth YMCA
Friday 27 th July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Winchester Discovery Centre
Saturday 28 th July:	Free public event, 12 pm – 5 pm, Andover Guildhall



2012 ROUTE



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Print quality photos are available to download:

Print quality versions of these and other photos are available online at:

<http://www.chaosscience.org.uk/press-release-2012>

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About our sponsors:

CHaOS is grateful for financial support from: The Wellcome Trust, The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Holmes-Hines Memorial Fund, The Medical Research Council, The University of Cambridge, The Institute of Physics (East Anglia branch), The Royal Society of Chemistry (Mid Anglia branch), The Biochemical Society and The Physiological Society.

Supported by
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About CHaOS:

Cambridge Hands-On Science is a student society of the University of Cambridge, and is run by volunteers on a not-for-profit basis. Entry is free to all public events, thanks to support from our sponsors. All of our volunteers are members of the University of Cambridge, studying science-based subjects (including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Medicine and Engineering) at either undergraduate or postgraduate/PhD level. CHaOS has been running events in Cambridge since 1998, and around the country since the first Roadshow in 2002.

Covering the CHaOS Summer Roadshow:

Interviews: We're more than happy to talk about our events- this can be over the phone, at a studio where feasible or in person on the day of the event. Please get in touch!

Photos/video: We welcome photographers and film crews at our events. Please visit when events are open to the public – please let us know if you're planning to visit so one of the CHaOS team can help you when you arrive. The CHaOS team will all be wearing bright blue T-shirts, so we should be easy to spot!

For more information:

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