

News

Climate change to take centre stage at festival



Expect hands-on demonstrations at the festival

JULIAN ANDREWS

EXCITING FORTNIGHT OF SCIENTIFIC EVENTS IN CITY IS ANNOUNCED

By **FIONA LEISHMAN**

fiona.leishman@reachplc.com
@leishman_fiona

CLIMATE change has become one of the most critical issues of our time, so it is no surprise that this year's Cambridge Science Festival is dominated by events taking an in-depth look at some of the latest findings and potential solutions.

The Science Festival will run from March 11 to 24 and include a range of events covering everything from Fashion the Future on March 13, looking at whether being more selective about what we buy and wear could help tackle the climate crisis, to an open conversation with British Antarctic Survey climate experts on March 19.

One of the festival's headline events this year is with the centenarian Dr James Lovelock, who is widely regarded as the father figure of climate concerns.

On Thursday, March 14, Dr Lovelock will talk with Chris Rapley and Helen Czerski about climate change, and ask if we can fix it.

Dr James Lovelock is an independent scientist, environmentalist and futurist, best known for proposing the Gaia hypothesis.

The Gaia hypothesis suggests that the Earth functions as a self-regulating

system in which living organisms and their inorganic surroundings have evolved together as a single living system, with Earth's system keeping conditions just right for life to persist.

Another event on Thursday, March 21, explores possible future directions for global agriculture and conservation given increasing pressures such as population growth and climate change.

This event will be headed up by Abigail Burns from the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Ms Burns said: "The impact of agriculture is generally underrepresented in discussions around sustainability. Our industrial food system currently provides huge quantities of food waste, whilst having massive impacts on biodiversity."

"Meat consumption is on the rise - driven by increasing populations and the rise of affluent diets - contributing to catastrophic climate change."

"On the flip side, climate change is increasingly impacting agricultural production causing shifts in crop range and erratic water availability amongst other impacts."

■ Bookings open on Monday, February, 11 at 11am. For more information go to sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk



A dramatic experiment at last year's festival