

W5 MEMBER OF THE MONTH



WHO ARE WE?

With over 250 amazing interactive exhibits in four incredible exhibition areas, W5 provides a unique experience as well as fantastic fun for visitors of all ages. In addition to permanent exhibits, W5 also presents a changing programme of large and small scale temporary exhibitions and events. We have a daily programme of live science demonstrations and shows throughout the day.

WHAT DO W5 DO?

Aside from the regular exhibitions and live demonstration shows, W5 has a passion for running a dynamic education programme heavily focused on STEM.



CASE STUDY



The Friendship Four – Festival of STEM

In November 2015, over Thanksgiving weekend, four ice-hockey teams from Colgate University, the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Northeastern University, and Brown University travelled to Belfast for a major international hockey exchange and to compete for the Belpot Trophy. “The Friendship Four” is an initiative led by the Odyssey Trust, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Arder Carson, and Secretary of State John Kerry’s Office of Global Partnerships.

The key focus of the Friendship Four was Education:

- Education of youth through sports to create a spirit of mutual understanding and the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play;
- An exploration of the opportunities that education can provide, both in Northern Ireland and the USA through scholarships and placements;
- And Education linked to future job opportunities and economic success.

In parallel, the Friendship Four initiative aimed to focus on social inclusion – ensuring that young people and communities from rural and urban deprived areas are engaged with education and provided with opportunities to identify relevant areas of study and future potential career paths.

So to celebrate this unique sporting and educational event, W5, in partnership with the Belfast Giants, had developed the 'Friendship Four – Festival of STEM', a fantastic programme of events being rolled out for schools and the public over the month of November, aiming to raise awareness of the role of STEM in Sport and in our society. The programme will centre around the SSE Arena and of course W5, Northern Ireland's unique award winning science and discovery centre.



To increase the reach, impact and diversity of the programme, W5 is linked with a wide range of business, industry and academic partners to deliver innovative events including the Royal Society of Chemistry, Institute of Physics, NI Science Festival, Citi Group, our local universities and STEM Ambassadors from across Northern Ireland.

The programme kicked off with the Chief Scientific Advisor, Sir Mark Walport who provided his insight into the societal impact of energy generation during an evening public lecture on 3rd November. Events also featured Margaret Byrne, Chief Executive of Sunderland Football Club and an alumni of Ulster University Business School, who as part of the Business School's Ruby Anniversary celebrations took part in one of W5's 'Fantastic Females' series, targeted at young women in education exploring the 'Business of Sport'.

So whether it's 'The Physics of Martial Arts'; the 'Science of Sport' or 'Plastic Fantastic' to name a few, the Festival of STEM provided everyone with an opportunity to engage.

WHERE IS W5?

W5's location, on the bank of the River Lagan, at Odyssey, the Northern Ireland Landmark Millennium Project, provides spectacular views of Belfast and the River and is only a short walk from Belfast City Centre.

www.w5online.co.uk

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT?



On 15th December, 2015 Tim Peake, the UK's first European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut, will blast off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. About six hours later his Russian-made Soyuz module will dock with the International Space Station (ISS) where Tim will spend six months in orbit around the Earth. Join W5 as we watch and celebrate Tim's launch with one big day of space-related science and awesome astronomical activities!

With backing from the UK Space Agency and ASDC, W5 has been working with NI Science Festival and Armagh Planetarium to develop a full programme of events for schools and the general public. Tim's mission to space, known as Principia, will be the focus of shows, talks, workshops, demonstrations and more. Enjoy W5's own Destination Space! family show, learn about rockets with Scientific Sue, meet the experts from Queen's University astrophysics research laboratory, CultureTECH, STEM Aware and more.

Our star attraction of the day however, will be a visit from ESA astronaut Jean-Francois Clervoy. Jean-Francois has been on three Space Shuttle missions and will be giving a number of talks and meeting schools and the public throughout the day.

If you can't make it to W5 on 15th December 2015, then don't forget to check our [website](#)/ [twitter](#)/[facebook](#) page for more details.

WHY W5?

As current contract holders for STEMNET in Northern Ireland, W5 aims to bring an inclusive approach to Science Education in Northern Ireland. Coordinating over 1,200 STEM Ambassadors across the country we have a desire to see schools engaging with Business, Industry and Academia in a meaningful way, helping to create a vibrant economy with opportunities for everyone and ultimately firing the spirit of discovery and unlocking the scientist in everyone.

