

Children share their science project with others at *The Great Primary Science Share 2016*

**Lynne Bianchi** tells how teachers and advocates from all sectors can come together to share science and really make a difference



## The Great Science Share – inspiring us all to share science!

For a couple of years now, I have been toying with ideas of how to raise the profile of primary science through a national campaign. It is great that others were thinking along the same lines, especially now as we see the BBC's *Terrific Scientific* and the Wellcome Trust's *Explorify* campaigns hitting the national stage (see *Websites*).

For me, the aim was to explore how the coming together of science teachers and advocates, from a wide range of sectors, could collaboratively make a difference. How could we engage, inspire and share science learning with new audiences? How could we raise awareness and the profile of the subject we know can make significant changes to children's

choices in future?

The stimulus of Manchester's designation as the European City of Science in 2016 gave some momentum to this idea. Reflecting on what had been working well, we identified Manchester University's SEEIRH *Fascinate Children-to-Children* conference (see *Websites*) as the centrepiece of our development and the rest is history so they say! *The Great Science Share* (GSS) was born and the summer months of 2016 were successful in achieving mass participation in a collaborative event, where children, parents, students, teachers and business shared science together. To see what happened have a look at the video of the 2016 event (see *Websites*).

### And next ...

On 5 July 2017, the *Great Science Share* is back! With the core focus being an inspiring event for primary and secondary schools and their communities, we want this year to build on the success of last.

Already, two Twitter hashtag #GSShare17 events have taken place in Manchester, including the *Great Science Share Teach Meet* and the *Business of Science Conference*. These have offered opportunity for early years, primary, secondary, further and higher education teachers as well as business leaders to share in discussion and development of science.

Key words: ■ Science events ■ Sharing practice

**The big day and how to be a part of it**

To be part of this major day of events the ball is in your court. Focus on what you can do on or around Wednesday 5 July 2017. On the day there will be a social media campaign to share the science you are doing in your school with new audiences, with a central event being held at the Etihad Campus in Manchester. We hope that all teachers, wherever they are in the country, will be inspired to do something on this special day. For STEM organisations with an event, scheme or activity they wish to associate with the *Great Science Share*, we welcome your contact too, as the wider the reach the greater the difference we can make to raising the profile of primary science nationally.

Children absorbed in explaining their demonstration



**How can your school or organisation get involved in the *Great Science Share*?**

Create a share on the day – in school, with partner schools, parents or businesses in your region. This can be as simple as an afternoon of science in your classrooms through to a science fair between schools and communities. It is not about the scale of the venture; it is your involvement that counts.

There is a website that you can visit for more information and, most importantly, to sign up for further information, branding packs and links. Visit: [www.greatscienceshare.org](http://www.greatscienceshare.org)

All activities will use *Twitter* hashtag #GSShare17 to provide insight into how children have been at the heart of sharing their love of science learning with new audiences.

Remember the social media feeds are essential to letting us know you are part of this national collaborative science share.

Tweet and follow us @GreatSciShare and tag us at #GSShare17.

As well as schools collaborating and sharing, a number of professional bodies have shared their support for the GSS and I would like to offer thanks to the Association for Science Education, The University of Manchester, The University of Salford, The University of Bolton, Manchester Metropolitan University, The British Association, BASF, The Primary Science Teaching Trust, The Comino Foundation, Manchester Science & Industry Museum, The Royal Society of Biology, The Institute of Physics, The Wellcome Trust, Primary Science Quality Mark and others who have been willing to share the word about #GSShare17.

**Websites**

BBC *Terrific Scientific* campaign: [www.bbc.co.uk/terrificscientific](http://www.bbc.co.uk/terrificscientific)

*Fascinate Children-to-Children* conference: [www.fascinate.manchester.ac.uk/services/primary-pupil-events](http://www.fascinate.manchester.ac.uk/services/primary-pupil-events)

*Great Primary Science Share* 2016 video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpNlwUAjzJc&sns=em](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpNlwUAjzJc&sns=em)

*Great Science Share*: [www.greatscienceshare.org](http://www.greatscienceshare.org)

Wellcome Trust *Explorify* campaign: [explorify.wellcome.ac.uk](http://explorify.wellcome.ac.uk)

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