

Discover Darwin at the Edinburgh International Science Festival

Despite being published before the discovery of DNA, Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* remains the foremost description of evolution by natural selection. In this, the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the book's publication, the Science Festival is delighted to present a number of Darwin related talks & discussions as part of our 'Talking Science' programme.

174 events. 26 venues. Edinburgh International Science Festival – the world's first and Europe's largest celebration of science and technology.

Edinburgh International Science Festival. 4-18 April. For details of all Science Festival events, visit www.sciencefestival.co.uk. Booking hotline: 0131 553 0322

DARWIN AND AFTER: THE SHAPE OF LIFE AND THE RECORD OF THE ROCKS • Prof Richard Fortey (Paleontologist and writer) • 6 April • 6pm-7pm • Informatics • £7 (£5) • Darwin famously called the *Origin of Species* 'the rarity or absence of intermediate forms'. One of the greatest achievements of palaeontology since then has been the recovery of many fossils that do provide links for the great breakthroughs in the history of life: the conquest of land and the air; life's early history; the appearance of humankind.

DARWIN'S WORMS • Richard Holloway (former Bishop of Edinburgh) and Adam Phillips (Psychologist and writer) • 11 April • 2pm-3pm • Informatics • £7 (£5)
• Richard Holloway discusses Darwin's impact on human society and culture with Adam Phillips. Based on Adam's book *Darwin's Worms* they take a look, via Freud and Darwin, at life, endings and the acceptance of death in a secular age. A dense, clever, discursive, brilliant and maddening event!

DARWIN'S TANGLED BANK • Colin Tudge (Writer and broadcaster) • 11 April
• 7pm-8pm • Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh • £6 (£4) • A glimpse into the secret life of trees. A look at the respect we must find for the natural world which challenges us to learn from nature in the way we live our lives
• Organised by Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

DARWIN, IDEOLOGY AND GOD • Denis Alexander (Director, the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St. Edmund's College) • 18 April • 6pm-7pm • Informatics
• £7 (£5) • Evolution and Christian faith. What did Darwin believe? An overview of Darwin's journey from theism to agnosticism.

RICHARD DAWKINS: THE PURPOSE OF PURPOSE • 18 April • 8pm-9pm • George Square Theatre • £8 (£6) • We humans are obsessed with purpose: 'What is this for? What is its purpose?' There are two kinds of purpose: 'true' purpose, as in deliberate human design (a plane's wing), and the illusion of purpose that Darwinian natural selection creates (a bird's wing). But the second kind of purpose came first, and the human capacity to set up 'true' purposes is itself a product of Darwinian selection.