



Case: CHaOS Summer Science  
Roadshow 2006

Case Number: 082006CHaOS27

Further Evidence: For more information email  
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[www.chaosScience.org.uk](http://www.chaosScience.org.uk)

**Overview:**

This short case report describes the fifth CHaOS Summer Science Roadshow, undertaken by 39 volunteers from the University of Cambridge.

The Roadshow visited eight venues over 18 days, reaching over 4000 members of the public, educating people with a range of scientific experiments.



**Case Background:**

Cambridge Hands-On Science, CHaOS, is a non-profit organisation run by a group of students from the Cambridge University.

Our drop-in events consist of short hands-on experiments for children of all ages to try, each staffed by an enthusiastic student volunteer who leads children through the experiment in small groups.

We have almost a decade of experience in organising free science events for families and children, at schools, festivals and public venues.

Every summer we run a two week roadshow to take our experiments to schools and public venues around the country. This year we visited the Midlands and East Anglia and reached over 4000 visitors.

## Objectives:

Our aim is to inspire in children some of our own enthusiasm for science. The informal dialogue, our young vibrant volunteers, our unique equipment and the small group sizes all allow us to convey enthusiasm and understanding in a way that school teaching often cannot.

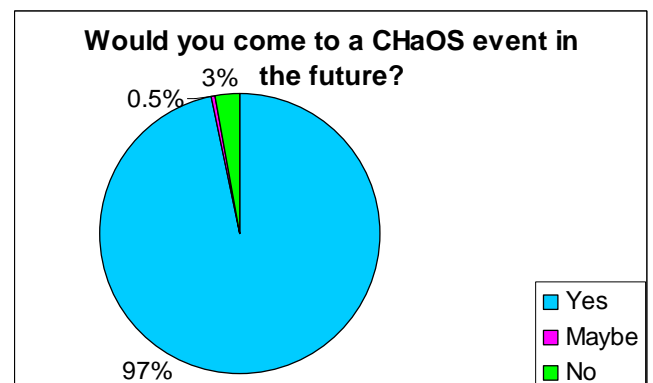
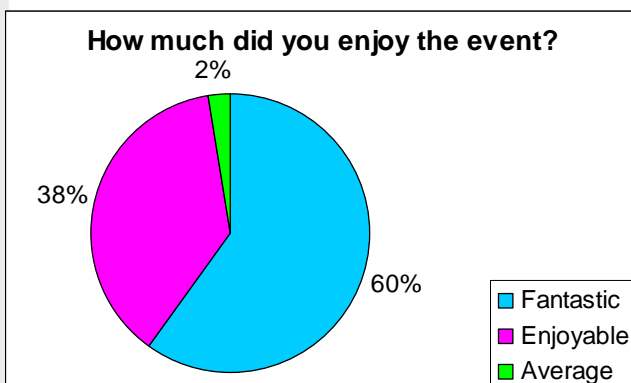
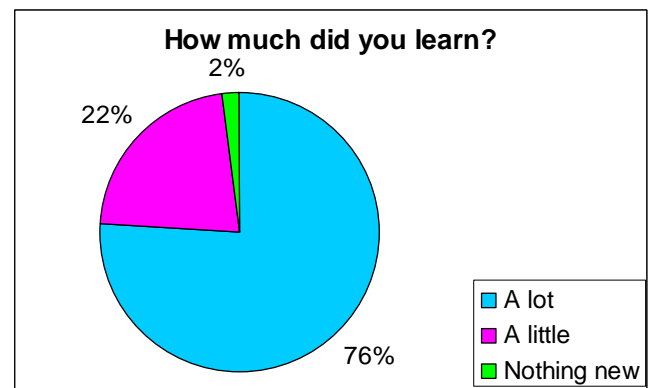
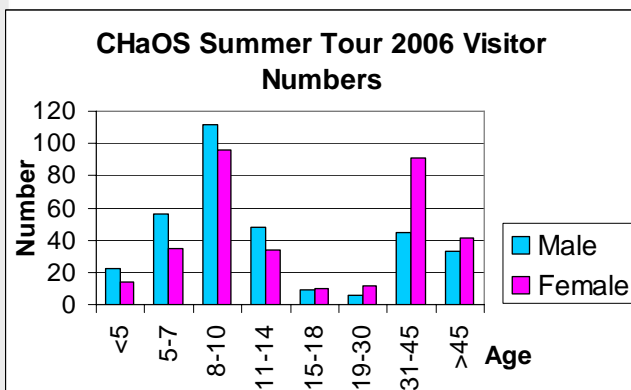
We choose experiments that demonstrate interesting and surprising science. We help children to see the area as exciting and dynamic, rather than as "just another school subject".

The roadshow visits towns that, unlike Cambridge, have few science events. Our drop-in events are free and open to the public so we reach families who wouldn't usually go out of their way to attend.



## Primary Sources:

CHaOS received highly positive feedback at its Summer Science Roadshow Events. They reached 4000 people and almost everyone enjoyed it, learnt something, and would come again.



## Perpetrators:

This year's Summer Science Roadshow consisted of 39 student volunteers from Cambridge University, who came together through their shared interest of science communication. Amongst these were the committee, who helped to organise the Roadshow and brief the new volunteers.

The experiments were mainly custom-built by the volunteers, with other equipment borrowed from University departments. This allowed them to demonstrate science in a fresh and different way to the public.



## Geography:

CHaOS, as a science outreach group, strives to visit deprived or isolated areas that would most benefit from their free science events.

In 2006 they visited Rugby, Nuneaton & Warwick in Warwickshire; Weeting in Suffolk; Retford in Nottinghamshire; and Louth, Cleethorpes & Heckington in Lincolnshire.



Photo# R66/173  
Putting CHaOS T-shirts  
on the map



Photo# P95/363: Case#1  
Kiwi DNA extraction at  
the Weeting Rally

### Case #1: Weeting Rally

Date: 14/07/06-16/07/06

Visitors: 700

Mission debrief: CHaOS descended upon the Weeting Steam Rally! With high visitor numbers and many enthusiastic comments, the event was deemed a great start for this year's tour.

Eyewitness account: 'I thought it was great. It was so cool it was great. I loved it.' -Chris



Photo# R47/173: Case#1  
Investigating 'Horrible  
Housemates'

### Case #2: Bilton C of E Jr School, Rugby

Date: 18/07/06

Visitors: 300

Mission debrief: With a whole day at the Junior School, the pupils had the opportunity to quiz the CHaOS team on all the questions they had always wanted to be answered. The children, and the teachers, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Photo# R47/173: Case#2  
Bilton C. of E. Jr School  
investigating water



Photo# J27/39: Case#3  
Alderman Smith pupils  
dare to cross the bridge

### Case #3: Alderman Smith School, Nuneaton

Date: 19/07/06-20/07/06

Visitors: 500

Mission debrief: Even with the record temperatures and the last days of term, the students of Alderman Smith School gained knowledge in new areas of science. The suspension bridge was extremely popular, even in the heat of the midday sun.



Photo# J19/39: Case#3  
Investigating sound and  
waves



Photo# P143/363: Case#4  
Warwick Folk Festival  
presents Boris!



Photo# P154/363: Case#4  
Investigating the inner  
workings of the hand

**Case #4: Warwick  
Folk Festival**  
Date: 22/07/06-  
23/07/06

**Visitors: 350**  
**Mission debrief:**  
With well-behaved  
children and ceildhhs,  
this proved a welcome  
'rest' for the  
volunteers!

**Eyewitness account:**  
'I think it was good  
and exciting and my mum  
liked it as well and  
everything. It was  
great.' - Jocelyn

**Case #5:**  
**Retford**  
Date: 25/07/06

**Visitors: 400**  
**Mission  
debrief:** Retford  
Town Hall was  
taken over by blue  
boxes of  
experiments and  
hoards of eager  
children and their  
parents.

**Eyewitness  
account:**  
'I loved it.' -  
Christie (3)



Photo# R91/273: Case#5  
Racing boats in the  
streets of Retford



Photo# R82/173: Case#5  
Crowds of enthusiastic  
scientists-to-be!

**Case #6: Louth**  
Date: 26/07/06

**Visitors: 400**  
**Mission debrief:**  
Boris met the  
children of Louth,  
to teach them about  
the body.

**Eyewitness  
accounts:**  
'It's really  
interesting to see  
what DNA looks  
like.' -Alex (9)  
'Really good fun  
all the staff were  
really nice.' -  
Frank (9)



Photo# P230/363: Case#6  
The children of Louth  
make friends with Boris



Photo# R118/273: Case#6  
View over the multitude  
of experiments available

## Case #7: Cleethorpes

Date: 27/07/06

Visitors: 700

**Mission debrief:** Cleethorpes hosted CHaOS with 700 visitors in just one day. The large crowds made it hard work, but the children's enthusiasm made it a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

**Eyewitness accounts:** 'Good show, well done.' - Michelle  
'Really good. I would definitely come again.' - Marielle (12)



Photo# P247/363: Case#7  
Cathedrals constructed  
in Cleethorpes!



Photo# P237/363: Case#7  
Crowds gather to learn  
what CHaOS has to teach

## Case #8: Heckington Show

Date: 29/07/06-30/07/06

Visitor Numbers: 750

**Mission debrief:** As the final location of this year's tour, the Heckington Show allowed CHaOS to go out with a bang! Even if the demonstrators may have been tired after weeks of camping, everyone enjoyed themselves.

**Eyewitness account:** 'I relally graet time because I relally lick science.' (Verbatim!)

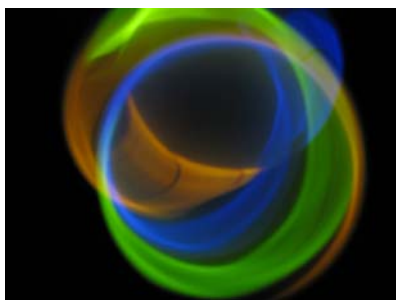
Overall, the Summer Roadshow was a great success. The different locations allowed CHaOS to visit many families, and give their love of science to the next generation.



Photo# P350/363: Case#8  
Heckington's new bridge  
was a big success



Photo# P287/363: Case#8  
Balancing beach balls on  
an air stream



Photo# P224/363  
Frisbee and glowsticks



Photo# P171/363  
CHaOS making friends!



Photo# R63/173  
Relaxing at the local pub



Photo# P30/363  
Steam engines at the rally



Photo# P273/363  
Lincoln Cathedral

## Sponsors

CHaOS would like to thank the following for their sponsorship of the 2006 Summer Science Roadshow:



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**  
Active Community Fund

University of Cambridge Active Community Fund

GlaxoSmithKline



GlaxoSmithKline

Institute of Physics (East Anglia Branch)

**Institute of Physics**  
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## Case Operatives:

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Photo# 013/21  
CHaOS at the local pub



Photo# 09/21  
Drink up!

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