

**BBC** THE BREAKTHROUGHS THAT COULD REVERSE BALDNESS

# Science Focus

How new tech could  
**END LONELINESS**

The plan to prevent  
**EARTH'S ASTEROID DOOMSDAY**

Inside the race to  
**SAVE OUR SHARKS**

# ARE WE SPECIAL?

**HOW SCIENTISTS ARE REWRITING THE  
ORIGIN STORY OF EARTH AND LIFE ITSELF**

**PLUS**  
**PROF BRIAN COX**  
REVEALS THE  
SECRETS OF HIS EPIC  
NEW TV SERIES

**SF**  
SCIENCEFOCUS.COM



ISSUE #411 OCTOBER 2024  
UK £5.99 US \$13.50 CAN \$14.99  
AUS \$14.50 NZ \$19.99

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Climate**

The hidden tipping points that could trigger disaster

**Health**

How to maximise the benefits of your morning caffeine hit

**Anthropology**

The surprising tactics of Ice Age hunters

## EYE OPENER

### A star is born

This isn't one image, but a mosaic of many, combined to form a massive view of NGC 1333, a star-forming cluster around 960 light-years from Earth. Sitting deep within the Perseus molecular cloud, the cluster had been hidden from view until it was captured by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) in August.

Hubble captured an image of the Perseus cloud back in 2023, which, while impressive, didn't show anything like the detail visible in this one – much of the star-forming activity seen here was obscured by the cloud's dust.

"JWST behaves like the thermal-imaging cameras used by search-and-rescue teams to see through smoke or dust. Its sensitivity to longer wavelengths of light, together with its superb resolution, allows us to peer into the dusty, star-forming regions so that we can get a better look at individual stars in the process of forming," says Dr Claire Davies, a physics and astronomy lecturer at the University of Exeter.

The glowing patches of orange gas swirling around the centre are a telltale sign of intense star-forming activity. The swirls form when the material ejected from young stars collides with the surrounding cloud.

NASA/ESA/CSA

VISIT US FOR MORE AMAZING IMAGES:

 SCIENCEFOCUS

 BBCSCIENCEFOCUS



