RAS 200:SKY & EARTH



May

AGM Update

Last year the RAS awarded six charities sums of up to £100,000 to engage communities that would not normally engage in astronomy and geophysics. The scheme has been exceptionally successful and we are delighted to be launching the second round of funding this autumn.

RAS 200:Sky & Earth

AGM UPDATE

CARE 4 CARERS

Care 4 Carers is a charity based in Scotland providing support and breaks for carers. For their RAS200 project they are providing carers with Science days and residential breaks. Their first Science Day consisted of a lunch followed by a guided tour through Our Dynamic Earth, a planetarium show and tea, the day had 30 adult carers most of whom were aged over 40. Care 4 Carers are also offering residential breaks across Scotland, giving carers the chance to learn about astronomy and to relax. There are five breaks this year, two of which have already taken place. The residential breaks book up quickly and have had very favorable reviews.

As a 51 year old woman where else would I get to do science? — Quote from a carer who attended one of Care 4 Carers breaks.

There have been numerous examples of progression from attendees at the most recent residential break, these have included an 87 year old woman buying a telescope, a group of grandparents who care for their grandchildren organizing a Cosmos planetarium to visit their group and many of the attendees have downloaded various apps to help them continue with their learning.

NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

The creative team at the National Space Centre have been working hard to produce a new planetarium show which will be used not only at the centre in Leicester, but it will also be available across the UK for pop up planetariums. Once complete any pop up planetariums will be able to use the new show, which thanks to help from the National Autistic Society there will be an "Autism Friendly" version. This will ensure that schools and communities living within more rural areas will also have access to this new show.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION



The WEA have started some astronomy courses that will be primarily based in the North West, but will soon be expanding across the UK. They had a regional launch in early January and are developing their curriculum focusing on building the bridge between students with no prior knowledge in astronomy. To do this they are holding monthly astronomy activities, these have included a stargazing live evening in Old Trafford where over 300 people of all ages attended. They have also run an hour-long fun astronomy course. This is hoped to increase enthusiasm for astronomy for the launch of their longer courses.

A young boy stargazing at the Old Trafford event.

EISTEDDFOD AND ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

The Eisteddfod is a Welsh festival of literature, music and performance, which can be traced back to the early 12th century. Each year around 26,000 people will pass through the science pavilion over an eight day period.

Aberystwyth have already completed one summer of Eisteddfodau festivals, and are preparing for this year's event. This will include a piece of art work commissioned by Jessica Lloyd-Jones, who, having had insight into charged particles, aurora and magnetic field, has proposed a very exciting piece with lights, with a projection installation that translates into particles of light to provide a sensory experience. This will be on display at the forthcoming Eisteddfodau. Owing to the nature of the work, she has proposed a digital artwork video file that can be shown by projection or LCD screen, and also online. There will also be various other events being held this summer which will be aiming to teach the community about science through the mediums of dance and poetry. Anyone is welcome at the Eisteddfod's and this year they will be held in Abergavenny in late July.

PRINCE'S TRUST

The Prince's trust will be doing a variety of space themed activities through its Fairbridge course. Fairbridge is the Prince's Trust program for the most challenged and disengaged young people age 13 to 25. It begins with an Access course followed by Follow On courses aimed at developing social and personal skills, which the young people choose themselves. There was a wide range of activities ranging from planetarium shows to rocket firing competitions. The leaders of the course had all attended a special training day which had been held in Derbyshire. Leaders from around the country attended and will be taking back what they have learnt to train leaders in their local areas. The course was thoroughly enjoyed by the young people who attended the day. The Prince's trust will be expanding this course as well as delivering star gazing during their wilderness camps.



A mind map made by the young people showing what they knew about space at the start of the day.

THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY

The NAS received a smaller grant to help each of the charities help to make their events and activities Autism Friendly. They have been communicating with all groups and delivering training. They will also be delivering a training session for anyone involved in astronomy or geophysics outreach in the UK at the RAS on the 22^{nd} June.

If you have been inspired by these events and programs the next round of RAS200 will be opening this autumn. A timeline of the application process is below.

RAS 2nd Tranche Timetable

Announcement at RAS AGM 13th May 2016

London Stakeholder Meeting 13th July 2016

Town Hall Meetings September – December 2016

Outline Proposals Open 10th October 2016

Outline Proposals Close 9th December 2016

1st Grants Panel 8th February 2017

Deadline for Full Proposals 7th April 2017

2nd Grants Panel 19th April 2017

