

## **Annie Maunder Medal 2021- Professor Robert Walsh**

### **Full citation**

Professor Robert Walsh, a STFC Leadership Fellow in Public Engagement, has always combined a passion and commitment for public engagement in astronomy alongside his solar physics research. His outreach activities have featured establishing the Lancashire Science Festival as well as a centre for young scientists at his University (UCLan), being part of the NASA 2017 eclipse team and most recently inspiring Blackpool with “SUN”, an art/science installation project in collaboration with artist Alex Rinsler, at the Lightpool Festival 2019. SUN is now a national strategic partnership project with STFC.

He has inspired thousands of people from all walks of life, especially children, and has been keen to engage all communities. In his work as the International Astronomical Union UK National Outreach Co-ordinator, in Autumn 2019 he engaged over ten thousand young people in the UK-wide exoplanet naming competition. He has also recently co-authored a popular science book for teenagers called ‘Unmasked: The Science of Superheroes’.

Professor Walsh himself seems to fall into the superhero category, working exceedingly hard, inspiring young solar researchers, collaborating both nationally and internationally and leading several outreach projects all at the same time. His energy is boundless. It would seem that there are more hours in his day than for the rest of us. He is a worthy winner of this award for the wealth, range and continued commitment to engaging so many people in astronomy.

For these reasons Professor Robert Walsh is awarded the RAS Annie Maunder Medal, 2021.

### **Short citation**

Professor Robert Walsh has always combined a passion and commitment for public engagement in astronomy alongside his Solar Physics research. This has featured festivals, establishing a centre for young scientists at his University and inspiring Blackpool with luminations of an astronomical kind. He has inspired thousands of people from all walks of life and has been keen to engage all communities. In his work with the IAU he engaged thousands of young people in the exoplanet naming competition. He is a worthy winner of this award for the wealth, range and continued commitment to engaging so many people in astronomy.

For these reasons Professor Robert Walsh is awarded the RAS Annie Maunder Medal, 2021.