

Citation for Annie Maunder Medal: Dr Helen Mason

The 2018 Annie Maunder Medal is awarded to Dr Helen Mason.

Dr Mason has shown huge passion and commitment in engaging young people in the wonders of the scientific work she does. She led the exceptionally popular educational website Sun|trek and in 2015/16, supported the UK Space Agency's educational effort, Principia, linked to Tim Peake's flight on the ISS; and provided educational material related to space/Sun, light, solar radiation and energy. She has obtained several public engagement grants from a range of sources and currently holds an STFC Public Engagement Fellowship linking art and science.

Whether it is inspiring primary school students with an understanding of solar physics through art or talking to the public Dr Mason takes her commitment to inspiring others so seriously and reaches out to underserved audiences. Dr Mason goes out of her way to engage those in rural areas and those who don't have easy access to inspirational activities. She is a phenomenally active role model for leading academics in public engagement.

For these reasons Dr Mason is awarded the RAS Annie Maunder Medal.