

ARMAGH OBSERVATORY

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February Public Lecture and Future Events

I am writing to provide information about two public events that the Armagh Observatory is hosting in February, and to provide notice of other events in the City of Armagh which I hope you may find of interest.

The first two events are (1) a public lecture “The Life Story of a Star”, by Professor John D. Landstreet, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada, to be held in St. Patrick’s Trián on Tuesday 19 February; and (2) a “Meet the Astronomers at Armagh” event, in the Armagh Golf Club on Wednesday 20 February.

Another event in early February is being arranged by the City Chapter, which is the partnership of libraries in Armagh, and two others are being organized by the Armagh Visitor Education Committee (AVEC). The first of these is the 2008 Armagh Heritage Day, which will be held on Wednesday 7 May 2008 with a focus on “The Books of Armagh”; the second is a series of public events to mark the tercentenary of the birth of Archbishop Richard Robinson, Baron Rokeby of Armagh, born in 1708. In addition, we mention the International Year of Astronomy 2009 and the Proceedings of last year’s Lindsay Centennial Symposium, which are now available for purchase.

Further information about these activities is provided below:

1. Armagh Observatory Public Lecture “The Life Story of a Star: from Birth to Death”, 8.00pm Tuesday 19 February, in St. Patrick’s Trián

The lecture will be held in the Rotunda Lecture Theatre, St. Patrick’s Trián, and will be delivered by Professor John Landstreet, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada. It will begin at 8.00 pm and is scheduled to end at 9.00 pm with questions, followed by tea and coffee.

This public lecture is being given as part of the Observatory’s Science in the Community programme, and is associated with an International Workshop on the Spectroscopy and Spectropolarimetry of A and B-type Stars being held at Armagh Observatory from 18–22 February 2008. The title and brief summary of the lecture are:

“The Life Story of a Star: from Birth to Death”

Most people who look up at the stars know that these are bodies much like our own Sun. But how are stars produced? Do they live forever? If not, what happens to them? This illustrated talk will answer some of these questions by describing how astronomers have come to understand the life stories of single stars, from the time they are born out of giant gas clouds somewhere in our Milky Way galaxy, through mature middle age, until finally they collapse to become tiny remnants of their former selves, possibly even a black hole.

The public lecture is free of charge and open to all members of the public. Owing to limitations of space, numbers may be limited. Therefore, if you planning to attend the public lecture please contact the Armagh Observatory in order to obtain tickets. Please write, telephone or send an e-mail to: Mrs Aileen McKee, Armagh Observatory, College Hill, Armagh, BT61 9DG; Tel: 028-3752-2928; Fax: 028-3752-7174; e-mail: ambn@arm.ac.uk.

2. “Climbing Mountains to Touch the Stars: Meet the Astronomers at Armagh”, 8.00pm Wednesday 20 February, in the Armagh Golf Club

This event, which is free and open to everyone, will be held in the Armagh Golf Club. It is associated with the international workshop of astronomers at Armagh, and aims to explain what it means to be an astronomer and what astronomers do at their remote mountain-top observatories. It will provide an informal opportunity for anyone to ask any question about anything they have seen in the sky and about any aspect of modern astronomy or cosmology. The event will take place in the Armagh Golf Club from 8.00pm on Wednesday 20th February. For free tickets, please write, telephone or send an e-mail to: Mrs Aileen McKee, Armagh Observatory, College Hill, Armagh, BT61 9DG; Tel: 028-3752-2928; Fax: 028-3752-7174; e-mail: ambn@arm.ac.uk.

3. **City Chapter Valentine's Week Event: "Love Poetry" from 7.30pm Tuesday 12th February**

The City Chapter would like to draw your attention to its February event "Love Poetry", to be held in the Cardinal Ó Fiaich Memorial Library and Archive on Tuesday 12th February. The poetry reading will be given by the poet Sinéad Morrissey, who is also the Lecturer in Creative Writing (Poetry) at Queen's University Belfast (see: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SeamusHeaneyCentreforPoetry/Staff/DrSineadMorrissey/>). For more information, please contact Mr Roddy Hegarty, Education Officer, Cardinal Ó Fiaich Memorial Library and Archive, 15 Moy Road, Armagh, BT61 7LY; Tel: 028-3752-2981; E-mail: rhegarty@btinternet.com.

4. **Armagh Heritage Day 2008, "The Books of Armagh, from 9.30am Wednesday 7th May 2008**

The Armagh Visitor Education Committee (AVEC) is hosting a half-day conference in Armagh on Wednesday 7th May, from 9.30 am in the Rotunda Lecture Theatre, St. Patrick's Trian, Armagh. The event, "The Books of Armagh", will begin with a keynote presentation by Monsignor Raymond Murray on the famous Book of Armagh. This will be followed by short talks from several members of AVEC about particular books and other material in their specific collections. After lunch there will be a tour of the St. Patrick's Testament Area Exhibition in St. Patrick's Trian, and visits and/or tours of other AVEC organizations, finishing c.17:00. Further information about AVEC is available from <http://scholars.arm.ac.uk/avec/>. This event is also free of charge and open to all members of the public. If you planning to attend the event please contact the Irish and Local Studies Library in order to obtain tickets. Please write, telephone or send an e-mail to: Mary McVeigh, Irish and Local Studies Library, 39c Abbey Street, Armagh, BT61 7EB; Tel: 028-3752-7851; Fax: 028-3752-7127; e-mail: mary.mcveigh@ni-libraries.net.

5. **Tercentenary of the Birth of Archbishop Richard Robinson (1708–1794)**

We have recently discovered that Archbishop Richard Robinson was born in 1708 (and not 1709), and so are planning together with other organizations in the City of Armagh to celebrate his tercentenary in 2008. More details on these future events will be issued in due course.

6. **International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009)**

The Observatory is working with other astronomical organizations throughout the island of Ireland to develop astronomy events in 2009 to celebrate the United Nations International Year of Astronomy, 2009 being the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of a telescope. For more information and further details about IYA 2009, see: <http://astronomy2009.ie/>.

Proceedings of The Lindsay Centennial Symposium

Following the highly successful Lindsay Centennial Symposium held last year in St. Patrick's Trian, Armagh, to celebrate the exact 100th anniversary of the birth of Eric Mervyn Lindsay (born 26th January 1907), the Proceedings of the Symposium have now been published in the international *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage* (Vol. 10, No. 3, November 2007). The Observatory has obtained a small number of additional copies of this Special Issue which may be purchased from the Observatory on a first-come, first-served basis at a cost of £25.00 (or €35.00) each, including postage and packing.

If you would like to obtain a copy of this Special Issue please complete and return the enclosed order form enclosing your remittance. Further information on the Lindsay Symposium is available from the Observatory's web-site and links therein. The web-pages (see: http://star.arm.ac.uk/press/2007/Lindsay_Symposium290107_pr.html) include images from the conference as well as the programme for the day, and slides and videos of the various talks and presentations.

Yours sincerely



Mark E. Bailey
Director
Armagh Observatory