

8th November 2024

INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

(Due to limited parking, please limit your visit to 2 hours)

• Research Talks

Talks are located in the Café space on the right from the main entrance. There is no need to book a place; just turn up and take a seat 5 minutes before the talk is due to start. Each talk will last approximately 30 minutes, followed by time for questions.

1. 18:00- "An Introduction to Astronomy"
Mily Riley

An exciting family- and young people-oriented introduction to all things space and astronomy. We will discuss awe-inspiring bodies in the cosmos including planets, stars, galaxies, and more. As well as how our own Earth fits into the universe. This is an interactive talk so please get ready to be a part of the discussion!

2. 19:00- "Exploring Our Local Universe"
Dr. William Cooper

Join this talk as we expand our frame of reference, starting with our home and expanding out to the entire Universe (and beyond?). Stops will include our planet, the Solar system, the Solar neighbourhood, the Galaxy, the local group and the wider Universe. There will be a small diversion to my personal specialty, ultracool dwarfs. These are the objects that fill in the gap between stars and planets that help us expand our knowledge on population dynamics and atmospheric physics.

3. 20:00- "Supermassive Black Holes: What are they?"
Maddie Silcock

Supermassive Black Hole- it's not just a great Muse song, it's also one of the most complex, powerful, and enchanting astrophysical entities nature has to offer. In this talk we will tour what these phenomena are and what makes them so interesting and important to Galaxies. We will then explore how Humanity's understanding of SMBHs has developed in light of results from the recent flagship mission JWST, and the ongoing questions bubbling in research.

• Telescopes

The telescopes are a short walk from the main building on a paved, level path. Exit the doors at main reception, turn left and follow the lit path. Please stay on the path.

Once you are at the telescopes, you may enter any dome that has its door open to view and, weather permitting, look through our telescopes with guidance from our astronomers.



• Planetarium Shows

Shows will be taking place throughout the evening in our two domes. You can book your spot at reception. One is located in our lab to the right of reception and the indoor planetarium is upstairs at the end of the corridor. Please arrive a few minutes early for your show and queue outside. If you miss your show, we cannot guarantee you a place in another.



Please do not take food or drink into the planetariums or telescope domes.

• Activities & Demos

Follow the upstairs corridor to find a selection of activities and demonstrations lead by astrophysics students and members of the Hertford Astronomy Group. Including:

- Make-a-Comet: See how we can build comets here on Earth.
- JWST zone: Learn all about the wonders of the most ambitious space telescope humanity has ever built and do some fun activities!
- Asteroid Rocks: Have a chance to hold in your hand's rocks from outer space!
- Make a Straw Ariane 5 Rocket: Do you have what it takes to be an aerospace engineer and design, build and launch a rocket with the JWST inside?
...and much more!

Toilets

The accessible and men's toilets are on the ground floor and the women's are at the top of the stairs. There is an accessible toilet at the telescopes.