

ROE Visitor Centre

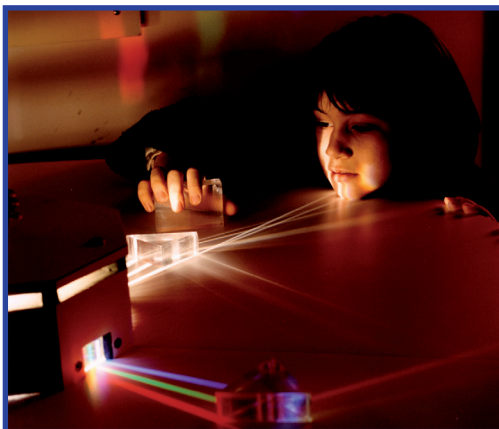
The Visitor Centre leads the observatory's activities for the public and schools. Our mission is to promote and respond to public interest in astronomy and to support science education. We have a unique mix of science, technology, heritage and people at the observatory to help us inspire and engage our audiences.



Our approach focuses on events led by our Education Team of skilled communicators many of whom are observatory students, staff or retired staff. This approach - rather than being open for daily visits from the public - ensures our programmes are carefully tailored to the audience. Our events are highly accessible while also offering a chance to explore subjects in depth. We frequently work through partnership projects locally and across Scotland and the UK.

Family and public programme

- Public talks on Monday evenings during the winter.



- Astronomy evenings, including observing if it is clear and dark, every Friday through the year.
- Other special events at the Observatory and at venues including the National Museums of Scotland and Our Dynamic Earth.

Schools programme

- We are visited by, or visit, some 100 primary schools each year.
- We are redeveloping our secondary school programme with a new focus on key topics at the ROE including exo-planets, galaxies and Extremely Large Telescopes.
- We regularly run training workshops for teachers and other educators, at the ROE and throughout Scotland. More than 1,500 teachers and educators have attended our programmes since 2002.

We are also open for booked visits by any organised group, for corporate meetings and for filming.

Dark Sky Scotland

Since 2006 we have led the Dark Sky Scotland partnership which runs the world's first nationwide programme of public astronomy events. The events take place in rural and urban locations throughout Scotland for families and community



groups. We work with a wide range of partners, particularly in the outdoor and environmental sectors.

Our Dark Sky Discovery Site scheme enables local groups to identify the best location in their community for enjoying the night sky. We are developing similar Dark Sky programmes throughout the UK.

The Visitor Centre is part of the UK Astronomy Technology Centre and it receives core support from the UK ATC, the Institute for Astronomy and the Science and Technology Facilities Council.

Contact

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