



Planetarium & Observatory Spring & Summer Events 2010



Located in Wynyard Woodland Park (formerly Castle Eden Walkway), near Thorpe Thewles, Stockton-on-Tees, and signposted from the A177 (the Durham/Sedgefield road).

At our star-theatre and Observatory, we present shows and events for the enjoyment of schools, colleges, community groups and the general public. In this modern age, light pollution tends to spoil the view of the night sky, which is truly an area of outstanding natural beauty, but here we have a chance to enjoy the stars as they should be seen.

Public Planetarium Shows:

Public shows last for about 1 ½ hours in total and start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

- Friday 2nd April: "What's Up?"
- Friday 16th April: "Dark Matter & Dark Energy"
- Friday 7th May: "Wonders of the Universe"
- Friday 21st May: "Wonders of the Universe"
- Friday 4th June: "Wonders of the Universe"
- Friday 18th June: "Wonders of the Universe"
- Friday 2nd July: "The Stars from Down Under"
- Friday 16th July: "Wonders of the Universe"
- Friday 6th August: "Wonders of the Universe"
- Sunday 29th August: "Secrets of the Sun" (at 3 p.m.)
- Friday 3rd September: "What's Up?"
- Friday 17th September: "A Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy"

Details as follows:

"What's Up?"

Find out what stars, planets and other objects in space are visible in the sky for the coming month, as well as keeping in touch with any special events such as comets, shooting stars and eclipses.

"Dark Matter & Dark Energy"

Believe it or not, all we can see with our eyes and our telescopes in the night sky is a mere 4% of what's out there – we don't know what the other 96% of the universe is! Sit in the dark and find out what's the best guess. (This is a more

advanced show looking into what we don't understand in the vast cosmos and promoting the work of local researchers.)

"A Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy"

Hitch around our galaxy, the Milky Way, and be amazed at some of the wonders of our home 'star city' in space.

"Wonders of the Universe"

Explore the stars of the night sky from all over the Earth in warmth and comfort. What are their names? Which constellations can be seen at this time of the year? Hear the legends behind them, written over 4,000 years ago.

"The Stars from Down Under"

What do the stars look like in Australia? Find out without leaving the country! See the wonderful Southern Cross, the Scorpion and the Archer.

"Secrets of the Sun"

See live action on the Sun, with its sunspots (giant magnetic storms as big as the Earth) projected safely through to the Planetarium from the nearby observatory with a specialised filter. Remember: **never look at the Sun with a telescope or binoculars**. This can cause permanent blindness.

Planetarium Events:

All events are at Wynyard Woodland Park unless otherwise stated. All children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

- Friday 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd April, 9:00 p.m. : *Public Observing* outside the Planetarium
- Friday 9th April, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting* inside the Planetarium
- Friday 30th April, 7:30 p.m. : *Telescope Club* inside the Planetarium
- Friday 14th May, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting* inside the Planetarium
- Wednesday 2nd June, 1:30 p.m. : *Build a Space Shuttle* in the Railway Carriage
- Friday 11th June, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting* inside the Planetarium
- Sunday 18th July, 12 noon : *Solar Observing* outside the Planetarium
- Wednesday 4th August, 1:30 p.m. : *Build a Rocket* in the Railway Carriage
- Thursday 12th August, 9 p.m. : *Meteors!*
- Sunday 29th August, 3 p.m. : *Solar Observing* outside the Planetarium
- Friday 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th September, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing* outside the Planetarium
- Friday 10th September, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting* inside the Planetarium
- Friday 24th September, 7:30 p.m. : *Telescope Club* inside the Planetarium

Details are on the next page.

Public Observing

See the wonders of the universe through the Planetarium & Observatory's telescopes. Observe with your own eyes the clusters of stars and clouds of gas in our own Milky Way galaxy, plus many more galaxies in their own right out in the depths of the universe. Public observing nights are on Friday evenings from September to April, from 9 p.m. onwards, but only if the sky is clear of cloud! *Charge: Free. Meet: outside the Planetarium.*

CaDAS Meeting

Meeting of the Cleveland & Darlington Astronomical Society. A talk followed by discussion about a variety of topics in Space and Astronomy. For details on specific talks, visit the Society's website at www.cadas-astro.org.uk, find CaDAS on [Facebook \(cadasastro\)](#) or call the Planetarium. *Duration: 1½ hours. Charge: Free for members & £1.50/adult, £1.00/concession for visitors. Meet: inside the Planetarium.*

Meteors!

The Perseids are one of the best meteor showers of the year. Observe in the relative warmth of a summer night, with the usual deep-sky telescope observing thrown in. Shooting stars in abundance – make a wish on every one – but only if the sky is clear of cloud! *Charge: Free. Meet: outside the Planetarium.*

Telescope Club

Calling all star-struck youngsters (and the young at heart)! Do you have a telescope? Did you get one last Christmas or as a birthday present? Would you like to meet other people with their own telescopes, and find out how best to see the stars and planets? Perhaps your telescope has been knocked and needs some expert attention? The Telescope Club is aimed largely at youngsters aged 10–14, but adults are most welcome. Bring your telescope with you to see the night sky, or there's a chance to use one of ours. The Club is followed by public observing through Planetarium and Observatory telescopes. Participants in the Club who are not registered volunteers are then requested to put their own telescopes away and only to use Planetarium and Observatory equipment under volunteer supervision. *Duration: 1½ hours. Charge: Free. Meet: inside the Planetarium.*

Solar Observing

Free solar observing through specially filtered telescopes. Members of the Cleveland & Darlington Astronomical Society and Durham Astronomical Society will have many telescopes set up looking at different aspects of the Sun, from sunspots and granulation on the surface to prominences and coronal mass ejections – see with your own eyes the causes of the solar wind! This event only takes place if the sky is clear of cloud! *Duration: 3 hours. Charge: Free. Meet: outside the Planetarium.*

Never look at the Sun directly or through any kind of optical instrument such as a telescope, binocular or camera, as it can cause blindness. This session uses special filters under expert guidance.

Build a Space Shuttle

Build and fly your own cardboard space shuttle kit, provided by NASA. **Booking is essential, via the Wynyard rangers.** Duration: 2 hours. Charge: **£1.50** per child. Meet: outside the Railway Carriage. Suitability: ages 7 to 12.

Build a Rocket

Our ever-popular event for building and flying your own pop-bottle rocket. **Booking is essential, via the Wynyard rangers.** Duration: 3 hours. Charge: **£1.50** per child. Meet: outside the Railway Carriage. Suitability: ages 7 to 12.

Public Planetarium Show *charges apply*: **Adults £3.50, concessions £2, family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £7.** We reserve the right to change the title and subject matter of the Planetarium shows listed above, but strive to keep to this schedule. Public shows are usually deemed unsuitable for children under the age of 6; please call us for advice on shows, events and suitable age ranges. Charges for Planetarium Events apply to *Build a Space Shuttle* and *Build a Rocket*. Bookings for these events can be made by contacting Wynyard Woodland Park Rangers on 01740 630011; these events are very popular and places are limited. For further information contact Dr Ed Restall on 01740 630544, or e-mail director@wynyard-planetarium.net. The Planetarium and Railway Carriage are accessible to wheelchair users.

The Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory is a joint venture between Stockton Borough Council and the Cleveland & Darlington Astronomical Society, supported by the Durham Astronomical Society. It provides information, entertainment & education in space and science on Teesside and across the north-east. Visit our website at www.wynyard-planetarium.net, follow us on [Twitter \(@wyp_planetarium\)](https://twitter.com/wwp_planetarium) or find us on [Facebook \(wynyardplanetarium\)](https://www.facebook.com/wynyardplanetarium). For more information about astronomy in the north-east of England, visit the North East Group of Astronomical Societies website at www.negas.org.uk



The Government Standard

Development &
Neighbourhood Services

CARE FOR YOUR AREA
NO MESSING!