SOLARFEST 2017

Full Schedule:

Friday:

19.00 Gates Open
19.30 Terry Moseley- Our Place in the Universe
Followed by observatory tour, the history of Dunsink and telescope viewing

Saturday:

10:30 Registration - Tea/Coffee
10:50 Welcome Address
11:00 Brian MacGabhann - Einstein Made (Relatively) Simple
11:45 Pete Williamson - Solar Imaging & Processing Made Simple
12:30 Samuel Bleyen - Sunspot Classification and Measurement

13:00 LUNCH including observatory tour and solar observing
Please bring your own picnic. Tea/Coffee provided.

14:30 Sam Green - Stellar Bow Shocks
14:50 Aoife Ryan - Solar Physics with iLofar
15:10 Dúalta O'Fionnagáin - The Solar Wind in Time
15:30 Sophie Murray - Space Weather: Origins & impacts
16:15 - 16:30 Conference Close

Sunday:

12:00 Sam Green - Sun for Kids
12:30 Kevin Stephen Smith - Fun in the Sun!
13:00 - 14:00 Observatory tour and solar observing.
Please bring your own picnic. Tea/Coffee provided.

Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies

IFAS
www.irishastronomy.org

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MEATH ASTRONOMY GROUP
RATHBEGGAN LAKES

The Solarfest organisers would like to give speical thanks to the IAS, who are Solarfest's volunteer partners for the weekend

Dunsink Observatory, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Free Event but Advance Booking is Required
Tickets Available from: https://dias.ie/solarfest2017

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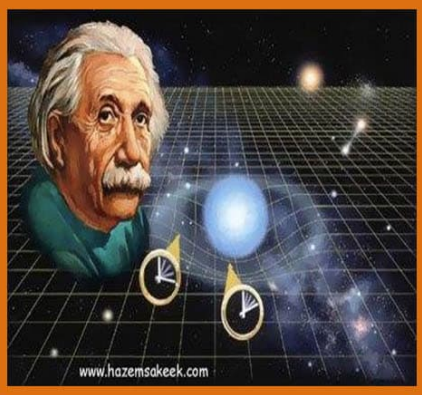
List of Speakers



Einstein Made (Relatively) Simple- Brian McGabhann

Einstein's Theory of Relativity is the most complete explanation of the way the universe works that we currently have. This talk is aimed at the interested layperson, and will give an easy to understand overview of this influential theory with no previous knowledge required. This talk will guide the audience through the building blocks of relativity, the surprising conclusions reached by Einstein and how these claims were verified, including the discovery of gravitational waves last year.

Brian McGabhann has been an avid amateur astronomer since the age of 15 and is currently the chairperson of the Galway Astronomy Club and the founder and resident lecturer of the Renmore History Society.

Solar Imaging & Processing Made Simple- Pete Williamson FRAS

Pete is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and an astronomer for BBC radio in Shropshire. He has been an avid astronomer for fifty years and is a founding member of the Shropshire Astronomical Society. Pete has been working as a media astronomer for the last four years after moving from working in the music industry. Pete's latest projects include the creation of internet radio station Astro Radio, Solarsphere Astronomical and Music Festival and he is currently writing an imaging manual for the Faulks Educational network, which consists of 2m and 1m telescopes in Hawaii and Australia.

Space Weather: Origins and Impacts- Sophie Murray

Sophie has over ten years experience in the field of space weather research, with her current interests ranging from solar active regions and eruptions to the impact of space weather of Earth's upper atmosphere.

Sophie completed a masters at University College Dublin and a PhD in solar physics in TCD and then worked as a Space Weather Research Scientist at the UK Met Office. Now a research fellow at TCD, Sophie is currently investigating the solar source of eruptive events in order to better predict them and working on the HELCATS and FLARECAST projects at an EU level.

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Sunspot Classification and Measurement- Samuel Bleyen

Samuel Bleyen is originally from Belgium and has lived in Ireland for the past 17 years. Working in the IT sector, Samuel has a passion for mathematics and is studying for a degree in applied and pure mathematics with Open University. Samuel's main interest in the celestial heavens is through solar astronomy and he has been observing the Sun on a regular basis from his back garden for the past 10+ years. Samuel enjoys mountaineering and has travelled extensively around the world to various mountain ranges and natural parks.

The Solar Wind in Time- Dúalta O'Fionnagáin

Dúalta is an astrophysicist originally from Co. Meath. He graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 2015 with a B.A. in Physics and Astrophysics. Following this he decided to pursue a masters in University College Dublin in Space Science and Technology. This then led Dúalta back to TCD where he is studying for a PhD in stellar astrophysics, supervised by Aline Vidotto. Dúalta's area of research focuses on simulations of solar-like stars and in particular how they evolve with time. This allows a greater understanding of how our own sun has evolved.

Solar Physics with iLofar

Aoife is an astrophysicist originally from Co. Dublin. She graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 2015 with a B.A. in Physics, followed by completion of a masters in University College Dublin in Space Science and Technology. This then lead her to an internship with ESTEC (European Space Research and Technology Centre) working on helmholtz instabilities in the Earth's magnetosphere. Aoife is now currently a PhD researcher, supervised by Peter Gallagher, in the Astrophysics research group in TCD. She is studying solar physics using radio telescopes and is currently involved in building iLofar.

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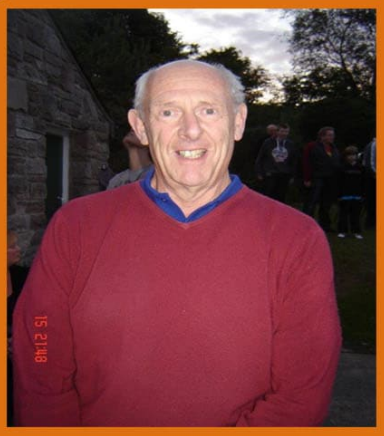
Stellar Bow Shocks- Sam Green

Sam is an astrophysicist originally from Co. Waterford. He graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 2015 with a B.A. in Physics and Astrophysics. Following this Sam undertook a masters in Space Science and Technology in University College Dublin. This then led Sam to the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) where he began an internship for 3+ months on stellar wind simulations of the Bubble Nebula (NGC 7635), supervised by Jonathan Mackey. Following this Sam began a PhD within DIAS working on stellar wind bubble simulations and how they evolve with time, to further investigate the interactions between massive stars and their environment. Since September 2016, Sam is part of the public outreach team in Dunsink and voluntarily helps out during the various events that are hosted at the observatory. He also helps maintain the meteor camera/radio system at Dunsink.

Fun in the Sun!- Kevin Smith FRAS

With a lifelong interest in space flight, the night sky and astronomy, Kevin is the chairperson of Meath Astronomy Group and a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Kevin actively promotes public outreach events, including assisting with Skellig Star Party and Solarfest. Kevin observes the night sky from his back garden- Dunboyne Castle Observatory (Minor Planet Observatory Code: Z67).



Our Place in the Universe- Terry Moseley

Terry is an experienced amateur astronomer, lecturer, broadcaster and writer. He has appeared on the BBC's Sky at Night, written the book Space Research: "Reaching for the Stars" and has written numerous articles for astronomical publications. Terry has been very active in local amateur astronomy societies, particularly the IAA in which he has served as president and vice-president and edited their magazine for over a decade. He has been honoured by the IAA with the Fitzgerald medal and the Opik Award, of which he is one of only two recipients. Terry was the founder and first president of IFAS. He is a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and has had a minor planet named after him 16693 Moseley. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2013 for 'services to astronomy'.

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