

Bayfordbury Open Evening

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

Lecture Theatre

Talks are located in the lecture theatre at the top of the stairs. 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 40 minutes.

18:30 Space Quiz from the Hertford Astronomy Group

A fun quiz suitable for all ages.

19:30 "I'm not saying its aliens... "

Ben Burningham

Ben will bring you up to speed on the science behind recent stories of visitors from beyond the Solar system, unexplained radio signals and distant alien megastructures. With an eye to new windows opening on the Universe in the coming years, he will explore what the future holds for the search for ET.

20:30 "How to grow a galaxy: black holes and star formation"

Joanna Ramasawmy

Jo will talk about multi-wavelength astronomy, using "invisible" light to probe the most extreme physics in the universe, and her research into the growth of supermassive black holes and what happens to the galaxies they live in.

Planetarium Shows

Shows will be taking place throughout the evening in our two domes. You can book your spot at the booking desk in the Cafe. The outdoor inflatable is in the car park outside (it's hard to miss!) 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.

Refreshments and toilets

Refreshments will be available in the downstairs cafe by the main reception. Cash only. Please do not take food or drink into the indoor planetarium or telescope domes.

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

Telescopes & radio show

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.

There will also be short (15 minute) talks about radio astronomy every 5 to 10 minutes throughout the evening in the circular brick building near the telescopes.



Activities & demonstrations

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

Classify Galaxies: There are billions of galaxies in the universe but are any of them similar? This lab will teach you how to classify galaxies depending on their features!

Moon demonstration: Ever wondered why the Moon always looks different? Or why there are so many craters on the Moon? Then this is the lab for you!

Pillar sundial: Learn how to make your own sundial from a paper towel tube!

...and much more!