

Bayfordbury Open Evening

(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 40 minutes.

18:30 "Confirming the highest redshift galaxies with JWST, and other cool things in the Early Universe"

Dr. Emma Curtis Lake

JWST can peer further back in time than Hubble could see with candidate galaxies being found from the Universe around 200 million years after the Big Bang. Emma will take you on a tour of the most exciting results from the Universe's early years as revealed by JWST, including the most distant confirmed galaxies to date.

19:30 "How a galaxy discovered by citizen scientists (with a little help from Einstein) is revealing the secrets of galaxy evolution"

Dr Jim Geach

During BBC's Stargazing Live! event in 2015 we asked members of the public to search for very rare "Einstein Rings" - galaxies seen through a gravitational lens, magnifying the view. After inspecting tens of thousands of images we discovered a remarkable system we call "9io9". This galaxy's light has taken about 11 billion years to reach us. It is revealing remarkable new insights into the inner workings of galaxies in the early Universe. Jim will talk about the discovery of 9io9 and the work that has been led by UH to date.

20:30 "Halley's Comet - from the sky to the stage"

Dr. Jim Collett

A recent National Theatre historical play, 'The Welkin', featured the appearance of Halley's comet in 1758-59. This talk was given to the cast and production team during rehearsals as a briefing on comets and their historical reception. We'll explore what comets are and how they appear in the sky, together with their cultural impact during this and other apparitions. It turns out that the links between comets and catastrophe are very old indeed.

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 indoor planetarium or telescope domes.

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.



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

JWST Zone: Learn all about the wonders of the most ambitious space telescope humanity has ever built and do some fun activities!

The Universe on a String: *Understanding the scale of our solar system, stellar neighbourhood and galactic local group*

Make a Constellation or Galaxy: Learn about stars and galaxies and have a go at making them light up!

...and much more!

Toilets

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.