



Planetarium & Observatory Autumn & Winter Events 2011–12



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 1½ hours in total and start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

- Friday 2nd September **2011**: "What's Up?"
- Friday 16th September: "Beyond the Big Bang"
- Friday 7th October: "What's Up?"
- Friday 21st October: "Beyond the Big Bang"
- Friday 4th November: "What's Up?"
- Friday 18th November: "Beyond the Big Bang"
- Friday 2nd December: "What's Up?"
- Friday 16th December: "Beyond the Big Bang"
- Friday 6th January **2012**: "What's Up?"
- Friday 20th January: "Rocks from Space"
- Friday 3rd February: "What's Up?"
- Friday 17th February: "Rocks from Space"
- Friday 2nd March: "What's Up?"
- Friday 16th March: "Rocks from Space"
- Friday 6th April: "What's Up?"
- Friday 20th April: "Rocks from Space"

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.

“Beyond the Big Bang”

Did our Universe really begin with a Big Bang? How will it end? Are there other Universes out there? What was there before? All the latest theories – presenting cutting-edge cosmology, as simply as we can!

“Rocks from Space”

Lurking out there, in orbit around our star, and occasionally visiting from the interstellar space beyond, are millions of asteroids and comets. Potentially lethal debris from the birth of the Solar System, they could wipe out all life on our planet. Find out more about them, where to find them in the night sky and when *The Big One* might strike; followed by a chance to see an asteroid (and perhaps a comet) for yourself through our telescopes (weather permitting).

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 & 16th September 2011, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing*
- Friday 9th September, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting*
- Friday 7th & 21st October, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing*
- Thursday 13th October, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting*
Durham University
- Friday 4th & 18th November, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing*
- Friday 11th November, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting*
- Friday 2nd & 16th December, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing*
- Friday 9th December, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting*
- Friday 6th & 20th January 2012, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing*
- Friday 13th January, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting*
- Friday 3rd & 17th February, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing*
- Friday 10th February, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting*
- Friday 2nd & 16th March, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing*
- Friday 9th March, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting*
- Friday 6th & 20th April, 9 p.m. : *Public Observing*
- Friday 13th April, 7:15 p.m. : *CaDAS meeting*

Details are on the next page.

Telescope Club

Please note that we no longer run the Telescope Club, but advice is available from the Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society (www.cadas-astro.org.uk) and advice and repairs are available at the Planetarium but are now chargeable (please call for details).

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 the first and third Friday evenings of the month 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.*

Details of CaDAS talks are as follows:

- September, "*Galaxies in Massive Clusters*", Dr John Stott of Durham University.
- October, *Thomas Wright Trophy* (astronomy quiz).
- November, "*How to Restore a Telescope*", Martin Dawson of York AS.
- December, "*What We Still Don't Know*", Dr John McCue of CaDAS.
- January, "*Are We Alone? – Extrasolar Planets*", Dr Pete Edwards of Durham University.
- February, *Members' Night & AGM*.
- March, "*How the Outer Planets Were NOT Discovered*", Dr Colin Steele of Manchester University.
- April, "*The Minor Planets*", Paul Money of Astrospace.

Public Planetarium Show *charges apply: Adults £5.00, concessions £3, family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £13.* We reserve the right to change the title and subject matter of the Planetarium shows listed above, but strive to keep to this schedule. Booking is recommended. Public shows are not suitable for children under the age of 6; please call us for advice on shows, events and suitable age ranges. For further information or to book, contact Dr Ed Restall on 01740 630544, or e-mail info@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 \(@wwp_planetarium\)](#) or find us on [Facebook \(wynyardplanetarium\)](#). 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



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