

RAS 200:SKY & EARTH



May
'16

AGM Update

Last year the RAS awarded six charities sums of up to £100,000 to engage communities that would not normally engage in astronomy and geophysics. The scheme has been exceptionally successful and we are delighted to be launching the second round of funding this autumn.

RAS 200:Sky & Earth

AGM UPDATE

CARE 4 CARERS

Care 4 Carers is a charity based in Scotland providing support and breaks for carers. For their RAS200 project they are providing carers with Science days and residential breaks. Their first Science Day consisted of a lunch followed by a guided tour through Our Dynamic Earth, a planetarium show and tea, the day had 30 adult carers most of whom were aged over 40. Care 4 Carers are also offering residential breaks across Scotland, giving carers the chance to learn about astronomy and to relax. There are five breaks this year, two of which have already taken place. The residential breaks book up quickly and have had very favorable reviews.

**As a 51 year old woman where else would I get to do science? –
Quote from a carer who attended one of Care 4 Carers breaks.**

There have been numerous examples of progression from attendees at the most recent residential break, these have included an 87 year old woman buying a telescope, a group of grandparents who care for their grandchildren organizing a Cosmos planetarium to visit their group and many of the attendees have downloaded various apps to help them continue with their learning.

NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

The creative team at the National Space Centre have been working hard to produce a new planetarium show which will be used not only at the centre in Leicester, but it will also be available across the UK for pop up planetariums. Once complete any pop up planetariums will be able to use the new show, which thanks to help from the National Autistic Society there will be an “Autism Friendly” version. This will ensure that schools and communities living within more rural areas will also have access to this new show.

WORKERS’ EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION



The WEA have started some astronomy courses that will be primarily based in the North West, but will soon be expanding across the UK. They had a regional launch in early January and are developing their curriculum focusing on building the bridge between students with no prior knowledge in astronomy. To do this they are holding monthly astronomy activities, these have included a stargazing live evening in Old Trafford where over 300 people of all ages attended. They have also run an hour-long fun astronomy course. This is hoped to increase enthusiasm for astronomy for the launch of their longer courses.

A young boy stargazing at the Old Trafford event.

THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY

The NAS received a smaller grant to help each of the charities help to make their events and activities Autism Friendly. They have been communicating with all groups and delivering training. They will also be delivering a training session for anyone involved in astronomy or geophysics outreach in the UK at the RAS on the 22nd June.

If you have been inspired by these events and programs the next round of RAS200 will be opening this autumn. A timeline of the application process is below.

RAS 2nd Tranche Timetable

Announcement at RAS AGM	13 th May 2016
London Stakeholder Meeting	13 th July 2016
Town Hall Meetings	September – December 2016
Outline Proposals Open	10 th October 2016
Outline Proposals Close	9 th December 2016
1 st Grants Panel	8 th February 2017
Deadline for Full Proposals	7 th April 2017
2 nd Grants Panel	19 th April 2017

