



RAS 200: Sky & Earth

Building for our bicentennial



The Royal Astronomical Society

- ‘Learned Society’: began life as Astronomical Society of London in 1820; received royal charter in 1831
- “...encourages and promotes the study of astronomy, solar-system science, geophysics and closely related branches of science.”
- William Herschel was first president; current incumbent is Prof Martin Barstow (until 2016)



RAS 200: Sky & Earth

- Major investment of £1 million from RAS reserves for outreach and engagement projects
- Grass roots projects that extend reach and appeal of Society into new areas of society
- Legacy of embedding astronomy and geophysics that will ensure our sciences retain their appeal
- Inspire young and old alike
- Set the RAS on course for the next 200 years as an outward looking society

RAS 200: Steering Group

Prof Steve Miller (UCL, Chair)

Dr Helen Fraser (OU)

Prof Barry Parsons (Oxford)

Prof Andrew Norton (OU)

Dr Mandy Bailey (LivJMU)

Charles Barclay (Marlborough)

Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock (Sky at Night)

Pamela Mortimer (RAS)

Dr Robert Massey (RAS)

Dr Sheila Kanani (RAS)

RAS 200: example collaborations

National Autistic Society, Institute of Physics, Max Alexander Photography, U3A, Equal Education, London Fostering Achievement, British Science Association, UCL, University of Sussex, History of Science Museum, Science Oxford, Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Imperial College London, Women's Institute, Artichoke UK, Google Lunar X PRIZE, Europlanet RI, Natural History Museum, Autism Research Centre in Cambridge...

RAS 200: Example projects



RAS 200: Timetable

- 9 May 2014: Official launch of Astonishing Astronomy and Glorious Geophysics
- 24 May 2014: Name change to 'RAS 200: Sky & Earth'
- May – July 2014: Consultation of astronomy and geophysics communities
- 16 July 2014: (National) stakeholder meeting
- Autumn 2014: 'Town hall' meetings in key locations

RAS 200: Timetable (future)

- 1 December 2014: Applications open for outline proposal
- 2 February 2015: Deadline for outline proposals
- 2 March 2015: Maximum of 12 consortia invited to submit full bids for grants
- 10 April 2015: Deadline for full proposals
- 8 May 2015: Up to 6 'Winners' announced at RAS AGM (first tranche)

RAS 200: What do we want?

- *Five year projects with community commitment*
- Long term legacy and high potential for mainstreaming
- Engagement with diverse audiences
- Partnership with organisations 'new' to RAS
- Leveraging additional sponsorship
- Benefits to RAS
- Evaluation of outcome



Questions?

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