UKRC and the International Year of Astronomy 2009

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She’s an Astronomer, London, April 2010
UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology
1. What UKRC is and does
2. Our IYA blog
3. Women in astronomy online
What do we do?
What do we do?

We work with

- Employers
- Professional organisations
- Women’s groups
- And more…
UKRC and the IYA 2009
Our astronomy bloggers

January
Lucy Rogers
Engineer,
Isle of Wight

February
Helen Walker
Astrophysicist

April
Maggie Aderin-Pocock
Astrium Ltd and Science Innovation

May
Jennifer and team
Victoria College, Belfast
June  Joanne Foo  
Glasgow Planetarium

July  Katherine Joy  
Moon meteoricist, London

August  Amanda Bauer  
Post-doctoral researcher  
and astropixie  
Nottingham

September  Theresa Cooper  
Amateur astronomer  
Cardiff
October
**Carolin Crawford**
Lecturer, Emmanuel College, Cambridge
Outreach Officer with the Institute of Astronomy

November
**Emily Baldwin**
Deputy Editor and Website Editor
Astronomy Now

December
**Jocelyn Bell Burnell**
Professor in Astrophysics,
President of the Institute of Physics
What the bloggers said

8 responded.
• 1 had a blog.
• 7 occasionally visited blogs.
• 3 had commented on a blog.

They liked:
• Help with writing
• Networking
• Telling people about astronomy
• Easy to respond to comments
• Interesting to see what came up
What the bloggers said

Not so good:
• The number of people who commented
• Email notification of comments
• Could have written more…

What’s changed:
• I now tweet
• Made me more confident when I started a web forum
• Invited to speak at some events
Is it worth it?

- Direct contact with the public, increase visibility of scientists
- Get your own version of the story out there
- Receive feedback from other researchers, coordinate things
- Stay current with field, stimulate thinking about science
- Improve writing and communication skills (advantage for research scientists)
- Get noticed, expand network (advantage for scientists interested in science communication)
- Get your field noticed
- Be part of a community (advantage for otherwise isolated scientists)

Eva Amsen, Biochemist, blogs at Nature Network
Is it worth it?

“I suppose the other question is why blog? That's a little harder to answer. I think I succumbed to some blog version of 'rapture of the deep', a compelling urge to write and comment and read and write some more (and not necessarily in that order). I am at a loss to explain it beyond that.”

Katherine Haxton, Chemist, blogs at Nature Network:
Blogs by women

- Adventures of an Astronaut Wannabe
- Alice’s Astro Info (US)
- Alice in Galaxyland (UK)
- Archive for Astronomy (UK)
- Astrobetter
- Astropixie (UK)
- BackReAction
- Cosmic Diary (international)
- Cosmic Variance
- Deirdre Kelleghan (Ireland)
- Hanny’s (Nerherlands)
- How I am becoming an astronaut (US)
- Megan's blog (Australia)
- Noisy Astronomer (UK)
- Sarah Askew (NL)
- Starstryder (US)
- The AstroDyke (a slightly sub-L* galaxy).
- The Interstellar Blog of Space
- The Planetary Society Blog (earth)
- The Spacewriter’s Ramblings (US)
- UKRC Women in Astronomy blog
- Universe Today (US)
- Way Oort West (UK)
- We are all in the gutter (UK)
- Women in Astronomy (US)
- Women in planetary science (US)
- Young Astronomers
Useful links

- UKRC: www.ukrc4setwomen.org
- GetSET Women: http://www.getsetwomen.org/