
UKRC and the International Year of Astronomy 2009

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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



April

Maggie Aderin-Pocock
Astrium Ltd and Science Innovation



February

Helen Walker
Astrophysicist



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

Carolyn 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)

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 (Netherlands)
- 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/>

