

The Jeremiah Horrocks Spring Lecture

In Search of the Northern Lights

Prof Jim Wild, Lancaster University

Monday 20th April 2015 - 6.30pm

Darwin Lecture Theatre

University of Central Lancashire

The aurora borealis or "northern lights" are clear evidence of the Earth's link to the space environment surrounding our planet. These mysterious dancing lights in the night sky have captivated observers since ancient times. In regions bordering the Arctic Circle, aurorae feature heavily in the mythology and folklore of numerous cultures, but what causes these beautiful displays in the polar sky? Jim Wild, Professor of Space Physics at Lancaster University, will explore our planet's intimate relationship with the Sun and reveals the physics behind the northern lights.

Biography

Jim Wild is a scientist studying the space environment and the links between the Sun, the Earth and other planets.

He studied for a degree in Physics with Space Science and Technology before completing a doctorate in solar-terrestrial physics at the University of Leicester. He is now the Professor of Space Physics at Lancaster University's Department of Physics and a Vice-President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Jim's research investigates the physics behind the aurora borealis, the impact of space weather on human technology and the interaction between the Martian atmosphere and the interplanetary environment. As well as exploiting an international flotilla of satellites, this research has regularly taken him to the high arctic to carry out experiments.

As a passionate science communicator, has established himself as a popular speaker for public audiences and he also contributes to print and broadcast media.

For more information and to book please see:

<https://jhispringlecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

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