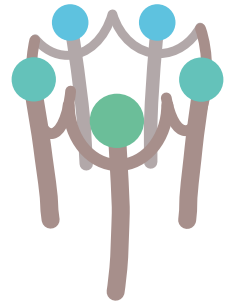


West Sussex Social Enterprise



CASE
STUDY

6

South Downs Planetarium

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Registered Charity:

No. 1096869

Registered Company:

No. 4632506

After years of planning, fundraising and hard work from a team of dedicated volunteers and enthusiasts, the South Downs Planetarium is a reality. It is one of the largest planetaria in the British Isles.

On Friday 5th of April 2002, the South Downs Planetarium was officially opened by Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, marking a major milestone in the realisation of a dream. The project started in the mid-1990s, when trustees began to raise funds to transform a storage building at Kingsham Farm into what is now the Planetarium and Science Centre. Over £750,000 was raised together with gifts in kind to bring the project to fruition.

As well as putting on eight to ten public presentations for the community each month, on a wide range of topical subjects, the planetarium's range of presentations for school children both complements and supplements their National Curriculum work, and meets the basic educational needs of a range of ages.

The Planetarium has recently begun to produce tailor-made shows to meet the specific needs of individual schools and other youth groups, and is able to produce new presentations rapidly, in response to topical events such as the appearance of a comet.



THE STAR CLUB

As a result of requests from visitors, the Planetarium has established a 'Friends of the Planetarium' Star Club.

The club allows people to become more involved with this exciting project.

Members receive the quarterly newsletter "Planetarium", can make priority bookings for public shows and obtain discounts on Planetarium publications.



THE FACILITIES

- 100 Seat Star Theatre with planetarium projector and dome
- A centre for associated sciences including a library, laboratory and an information technology centre
- Satellite weather pictures
- Hubble Space Telescope Images
- Image processing and display
- Internet access
- Remote observing with robotic observatories
- A solar trail leading to the planetarium.

This case study has been compiled by West Sussex County Council for the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group with the express permission of the project. For more information on the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group - Contact 01243 777606

If this information is needed in an alternative format please contact us and we will try to meet your needs. Call 01243 777544.
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