

## 'Other Worlds': an AstroSoc outreach event

**Date(s)** Saturday 10th March 2012 (10:00-16:00)

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The University of Birmingham's Astronomical Society (AstroSoc) hosts their free outreach event, 'Other Worlds' on Saturday 10 March 2012 from 10:00 to 16:00. Open to all members of the public and the university, the event will feature a rich selection of talks and activities for all running throughout the day.

You will be able to build and launch your own air rocket, and make your own planetary rover (complete with egg passenger) and see if it survives the fall off the physics bridge. We will also have a tour of an exoplanet system, with demonstrations showing conditions on each planet, and codebreaking where you can try and crack codes and learn about how we may communicate with alien life! There will be talks given by Dr Ian Stevens and Dr Samuel George about hunting for other planets and life beyond Earth.

### History

For as long as mankind has seen the night's sky we have been fascinated with the planets. These celestial Wanderers have helped us understand our place in the Solar System, but it was not until the end of the 20th century, until the discovery of planets around other stars, that we began to appreciate how strange our solar system is.

Two decades later, over 750 exoplanets are known, with several thousand more waiting for confirmation. This is an exciting time for science, and one astronomer from the University of Birmingham hope to demonstrate at their upcoming National Science and Engineering Week event, Other Worlds!

### Agenda

This event is aimed at all members of the general public and will feature talks by experts such as Dr Ian Stevens and Dr Samuel George who will discuss the discoveries so far, the prospects for the future and what these discoveries mean for the search for life by groups such as SETI. We will also have many fun interactive activities and workshops throughout the day, such as the making of air rockets and, weather permitting, solar viewing.

Other Worlds is going to run from 10:00 to 16:00 on Saturday the 10th of March, 2012. Entrance and all activities are free, however due to limiting numbers certain workshops will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

### Contact and further information

Further details can be obtained from the event website [www.talkandtelescope.org.uk/exoplanets](http://www.talkandtelescope.org.uk/exoplanets) (<http://www.talkandtelescope.org.uk/exoplanets>) and the science and engineering week event page [www.britishtscienceassociation.org/forms/events/view-event.asp?id=14071](http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/forms/events/view-event.asp?id=14071) (<http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/forms/events/view-event.asp?id=14071>). A [brochure for this event \(/Documents/college-eps/physics/other-worlds-poster.pdf\)](/Documents/college-eps/physics/other-worlds-poster.pdf) is available for download.

Should you have any questions or require further details on issues that haven't been covered here, please don't hesitate to contact Amanda Rawlins (AstroSoc Chair) at [astrosoc@astrosoc.org.uk](mailto:astrosoc@astrosoc.org.uk) (<mailto:astrosoc@astrosoc.org.uk>).

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