

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Armagh Observatory & Planetarium Logo Moon Competition Winners Reach for the Stars

New moon logo marks launch of Armagh Observatory & Planetarium's 'One Giant Leap' Summer Programme celebrating 50 years since the Apollo 11 lunar landing

Armagh Observatory & Planetarium this week announced the winners of their Logo Moon Competition which saw young aspiring astronauts of all ages create a new moon-themed design to fit inside the crescent logo.

The Planetarium received over 800 fantastic entries from 31 schools across Northern Ireland, with one out-of-this-world design selected as the winning logo.

The celestial new design was created by Demi from Rasharkin Primary School, Ballymena, and will be the official logo of Armagh Observatory & Planetarium's 'One Giant Leap' programme which kicks off this week.

Sinead Mackell, Education and Outreach Manager at the Armagh Observatory & Planetarium said; **"I would like to thank everyone who entered this year's competition. We were over the moon to receive such a large number of entries and with our summer-long 'One Giant Leap' programme of events and activities kicking off this week, this was a fantastic way to launch to our celebrations."**

The Planetarium was delighted to welcome Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Mealla Campbell, Michael Scott, Editor of Armagh Gazette and Arlene Stevenson, Designer at Digital Shared Services to judge the competition.

Michael Scott, Editor of Ulster Gazette commented, **"I was thrilled to be invited to judge the Logo Moon Competition at the Planetarium this week. This was a fantastic opportunity for children of all ages to get creative and to learn more about the history of space exploration and the significance of the Apollo 11 lunar landing."**

The competition was a great way to connect new, younger audiences with this important historical milestone and I was delighted to help judge the entries. All of the designs were fantastic, and it was definitely a tough decision! I would like to extend my congratulations all of the winners, runners up and to everyone who took part."

The Planetarium also announced the winners of each of the five categories; Nursery (Grace, Ballymena Nursery School), Key Stage 1 (Philip, Cortamlet Primary School), Key Stage 2 (Demi, Rasharkin Primary School), Special School Primary (Fiachra, Lisanally Special School) and Special School Secondary (Frazer, Beechlawn Special School). The winners of each category will receive a pass for their whole class to visit the Armagh Planetarium.

The 'One Giant Leap' summer-long series of events marks 50 years since the Apollo 11 lunar lander made history as the first spaceflight to take humans to the surface of another world. This special festival event programme takes place throughout July and August providing old and new generations a choice of opportunities to celebrate, experience and learn all about this historic event.

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Powered with Augmented Reality technology, a series of immersive full dome shows, traditional film, exhibitions, workshops and experiential events, all designed to get visitors into the headspace of a nervously excited young astronaut in 1969, will delight audiences and transport visitors to another world.

For more information on the 'One Giant Leap' programme of events and to book tickets visit www.armagh.ac.uk.

Armagh Planetarium opens Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm. For updates and ticket sales, as well as information about special evening and Sunday opening times, visit www.armagh.ac.uk or phone 028 3752 3689.

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For more information, additional images or to request an interview, please contact Annette McCormick or Dave Cullen on 028 9042 7004 or via mobile 07540 636 193. Also, please email by return for a speedy response.

Key highlights from the One Giant Leap summer programme include:

MINECRAFT ON THE MOON

Daily at 10am, 12.15pm, 2:15pm and 4pm from 11-13 July.

Kids will love these special moon-themed gaming workshops using Minecraft which will challenge them to explore the cosmos as part of individual and group challenges using laptops and electronic devices. Suitable for children aged eight and over, delivered in conjunction with STEM Aware, demand will be sky high for this hit knock-out feature event. Note: The 4pm session is best suited for children under 8 years old.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Daily from 17-31 July

For two full weeks, in conjunction with the Robinson Library, Number 5 Vicars' Hill, Armagh County Museum and the Market Place Theatre, the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium will host the International Astronomical Union centenary exhibition celebrating the astronomical discoveries of the last century, associated technological developments and their impact on human culture.

MUSEUM OF THE MOON ON THE MALL

Saturday and Sunday 20-21 July

Located in the Mall in Armagh's city centre and perfect for a picnic, this outstanding free family event, which is supported by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, will feature a jaw-dropping, specially-commissioned 7-metre diameter backlit sky-high moon globe and centrepiece alongside live music, children's workshops, talks and entertainment. Why not also take in a trip to Armagh Observatory and Planetarium for an all-day experience to remember?

BLOCKBUSTER SPACE FILM FESTIVAL

Various dates at 7pm

The Planetarium's iconic dome is the inspiring location for a series of thrilling space-themed blockbuster movies. Introduced by real-life astronomers who will explain the science behind the stories, this unique and inspiring event is not to be missed. See website for details.

SPACE PARK AUGMENTED REALITY EXPERIENCE

July 20 Onwards

In a major first for Northern Ireland, prepare to be enthralled as part of your visit to the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium where the Astropark will be your virtual launch base to experience a 'real' live take-off of a 110m-high Saturn V rocket from the top of the Hill of Infinity. Then immerse yourself in the Planetarium in a virtual model of the Moon before making your way across a virtual moon landscape of an Apollo landing site. Awesome! Note: the first release will require an iPhone to experience.

CAPCOM GO!

Daily from Saturday 20 July

A special show launching inside the iconic Armagh Planetarium Dome of CapCom Go, an immersive full dome show and historical documentary that showcases the stellar achievements of the Apollo programme and the real story and preparations made behind humanity's first trip to the Moon. Introducing a new generation to this amazing human story, it will thrill want-to-be explorers, engineers, designers, thinkers and dreamers of the future! Tickets may be reserved from 1 April.

SCIENTIFIC SUE**Friday and Saturday 16-17 August**

An important, engaging event for your younger team. Join Scientific Sue for a Super Summer live science show – but prepare yourself for lots of explosions, mess, fun and, most importantly, learning! It's all hand-on for all the family in this brilliant 60-minute show which guarantees fun for everyone.

HEROES & LEGENDS**Saturday and Sunday 6-7 July**

Marking a special return to kick off this year's exciting summer programme, Heroes & Legends at Armagh Observatory and Planetarium takes place between 10am and 4.30pm and promises to take your space enthusiasts on an experiential journey of discovery. Come along and meet iconic costumed characters including Harry Potter, Spiderman, Star Trek, Ghostbusters, Star Wars and many more. Bring your camera to make those memories last!