



Dear Colleague,

The months have flown by and our conference approaches fast. Thank you for registering. If you have not already done so, please pay your registration fee. In this announcement you will find important information about the conference programme, about your arrival in Armagh, and other details. If information appears to be missing, please check the website version or drop an email to Hdef2018@armagh.ac.uk. We are looking forward to welcoming old friends and new faces to Armagh and to sharing exciting science together.

Yours faithfully,
Simon Jeffery (Chair SOC/LOC).

Website

<https://hdef2018.github.io>

Sponsors

The organizers and delegates are grateful to the following for generous support:

The Royal Astronomical Society

The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

The Northern Ireland Department for Communities

The UK Science and Technology Facilities Council

Arrival and Departure

Reaching Armagh from Irish airports (and vice versa) is not straightforward.

There are detailed instructions on the website. If you arrive at Dublin airport on Sunday 9th, we hope to have someone to greet and direct you. To help us identify (and mitigate) potential problems, please let us know your arrival and departure flight details at <https://hdef2018.github.io/travel.html#form> , or email your name, arrival flight and time, departure flight and time to Hdef2018@armagh.ac.uk.

A welcome reception will be held in the Spires Bar of the Armagh City Hotel from 19:00 to 21:00 on Sunday 9th September. This includes a glass of wine per person and a finger buffet. Additional beverages may be purchased at the Callan Bar next door.

Venue

The conference will be held in and around the Copernicus Hall of the Armagh Planetarium ... it takes about 20 minutes to walk to the Planetarium from the City Hotel or City Hostel. A map is available at <https://hdef2018.github.io/about.html>.

Registration

The registration desk will be open at the Planetarium from 08:30 on Monday 10th September. Unpaid registration fees, payment for posters and tickets for additional persons (excursion and dinner) and for the Saturday excursion should be dealt with there. If you have been awarded a travel grant, please ensure that we have your bank details as described in the letter of award.

Accompanying Persons

A registration fee of £100 will be charged upon registration for accompanying persons. This will include the welcome reception, the conference excursion and the conference dinner.

Posters

We offer a poster printing service. Email the pdf of your poster to Hdef2018@armagh.ac.uk and we will have it printed on A0 glossy paper. A charge of £15 per poster will be payable at registration.

Social Media and Press

Announcements will be made through various channels before and during the conference. We are running a dedicated Twitter account @HDEF2018 and encourage the use of #hdef2018 throughout the conference.

Online Forum

Should delegates wish to communicate with one another online, e.g. to liaise on travel arrangements, to share figures, extend the discussion, etc, a SLACK channel has been created at: hdef2018.slack.com. To get involved, please request an invitation from Hdef2018@armagh.ac.uk, stating what email address you wish to use.

Data Projection Systems

Full AV and sound systems will be provided, for ease of use with local support. Please send final Power Point Presentation or alternatives in advance to Hdef2018@armagh.ac.uk. Edits on the day, on a memory stick, if needed but we prefer to have files in advance to avoid errors.

Conference Wi-Fi

HDef 2018 WiFi will be available for all with full guest internet access.

Streaming / Recording

We are intending to provide recordings of the conference talks and discussion so that non-participants can follow latest developments. Details will be made available through the website immediately before the conference begins.

Should any delegate wish their contribution NOT to be recorded, they should advise Hdef2018@armagh.ac.uk

Science Programme

The draft science programme is now available on the website at <https://hdef2018.github.io/programme>.

Talks in bold will be allowed up to 35 minutes, including questions, others will be allowed 18 minutes, including questions. Delegates presenting posters will invited to make a 2 minute presentation of their poster in one of the sessions labelled SPARKLERS.

Two sessions have been identified for DISCUSSION. One will be on the theme of binary star channels and mechanisms leading to the formation of hydrogen-deficient stars. The second will be more specifically on the double-white dwarf merger channel, RCrB stars and related objects. There will be opportunities for delegates to make SHORT presentations (5-7 minutes). If not already done,

please advise Falk Herwig in advance should you wish to contribute to either session.

Social Programme

In addition to the Welcome reception on Sunday 9th September:

Monday 18:00 – 20:00: The Armagh Observatory and Planetarium welcomes its international visitors and representatives of its sponsor organisations and provides an opportunity for tours of the 228 years old Observatory buildings, the Astropark and to see a mini-show in the Planetarium dome. Dinner and refreshments will be provided.

Tuesday 16:30 – 20:00: A visit to the historic Navan Fort, seat of the ancient Kings of Ulster dating back to the Neolithic (4000 – 2500 BCE), will be followed by a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Armagh, and a fork supper in the Navan Fort visitor centre.

<https://visitarmagh.com/places-to-explore/navan-centre-fort>

Wednesday 12:30 – 18:00: Armagh is world-renowned for its apple-growing industry. Our tour of the Orchard county will take us to an exquisite 18th century country house on the banks of the Blackwater river, where we will have a light lunch. We then move to the Armagh Cider Company to see some of the things that can be done with apples, and even taste the results.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-argory>

<http://www.armaghcider.com>

Thursday 15:30 – 17:00: Delegates are invited on a short walking tour of the City of Armagh, to explore its historic connection to St Patrick, the 5th century Romano-British missionary who brought Christianity to Ireland, and to discover the 18th century renaissance led by Archbishop Richard Robinson which still dominates the City and which established the Armagh Observatory in 1790.

Thursday 19:00 – 21:00: Dinner in the Copernicus Hall of the Armagh Planetarium, catering by Yellow Door.

Public Lecture

Wednesday 19:00 – 20:00: Professor Amanda Karakas will deliver a lecture entitled: Heavy Metals from Giant Stars. Entry for delegates and registered accompanying persons will be free on presentation of their conference badge, if space is available. Delegates will be advised of capacity earlier in the day.

Optional Excursion

Following more than 20 expressions of interest, an optional tour to the North Coast has been organized for Saturday 15th September, departing from the City Hotel at 08:30, to call first at the Giants Causeway. There will be guided tours of the Bushmills Distillery, and Dunluce Castle, with a return to Armagh at 18:00. The price, including lunch, will be £45. Tickets may preferably be purchased online

at <https://armaghobservatoryplanetarium.ticketsolve.com/shows/1173589700> , use code **HDeF2018** or alternatively at registration. Please also indicate your intention at <https://hdef2018.github.io/travel.html#form>. The tour will not go ahead with fewer than 15 persons (in which case tickets will be refunded). There is a maximum of 33.

Weather

September weather in Armagh can be very pleasant (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armagh#Climate>). Extremes are unlikely, but it would be a good idea to pack that extra jumper. A year-round constant is the likelihood of rain. Umbrellas provide some protection from the vertical component, but waterproof jackets (with hoods or hats) and sensible footwear are recommended. On the other hand, September often sees spells of mild and sunny weather, so here's hoping!

Any Other Questions...

Please Email Hdef2018@Armagh.ac.uk

Scientific Organizing Committee

Simon Jeffery (Armagh, UK, chair), Kameswara Rao (Bangalore, India), Klaus Werner (Tübingen, Germany), Orsola De Marco (Sydney, Australia), Geoff Clayton (Louisiana, USA), Ulrich Heber (Bamberg, Germany), Lars Bildsten (Santa Barbara, USA), Marcelo Miller Bertolami (La Plata, Argentina), Nicole Reindl (Leicester, UK), Amanda Karakas (Melbourne, Australia), Falk Herwig (Victoria, Canada).

Local Organizing Committee

Simon Jeffery (chair), Carol Corvan, Kim Peeters (event management), Aileen McKee (delegates), Leonard Knox (finance), Ceara Ryan (finance), Victoria Knox (finance), Conor Byrne (website), Ciaran Magee (IT support), Rok Nežič (social media), Yanina Metodieva (posters), Jorick Vink (public lecture).
