

Simon Rowland FRAS



Favourite Object to Observe.

The Milky Way

At a dark sky site and with the naked eye, the Milky Way is awe-inspiring; through binoculars or a telescope it is simply stunning and chock full of colourful stars.

Favourite Solar System Object

The planet Saturn

I can still remember the first time I saw Saturn through a telescope and saw its rings; I still get that "WOW" feeling now.

What Other Objects Do You Like to Observe?

The night sky is full of interesting objects to observe throughout the year. I particular like observing star clusters which are like islands of bright stars in the sky and also double stars which are often very colourful.

Astronomer Details - Simon Rowland FRAS

About You

I am semi-retired and work with my wife in our childminding business which we run from home. I have an interest in all things science and nature, particularly astronomy and astro-photography and have had a number of astronomy images published. I really enjoy giving presentations and practical demonstrations of astronomy and astro-photography and have several telescopes and cameras to help me do this effectively.

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Liability Insurance: n/a

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Relevant Qualifications *(If any degree or award is only honorary, please state this. State the qualification and where you achieved it.)*

Phd/Masters/Postgrad:

- Accredited Star Maker Northumberland Dark Sky Park
- NCFE Level 2 Award in the Principles of Customer Service in Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism
- Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAS)
- School Science Ambassador (STEM)

Degree: BSC (Hons) Building (Chartered Institute of Building)

Relevant Experience, *(Include membership of any societies, attendance on courses, any presentations you have done, this can be astronomy related or related to any subject at all where you teach/train/help out.)*

The following astronomy courses:

- Newcastle Sixth Form College certificate in Astronomy August 2014
- Astronomy: State of the Art MOOC. University of Arizona (Udemy) in November 2014.
- In the Night Sky: Orion - Open University MOOC February 2015.
- Astronomy: Exploring Time and Space MOOC. University of Arizona (Coursera) March 2015.
- Open University: Moons MOOC. March 2015.

The following astronomy presentations:

- 10x Star Maker
- 1x Northumbrian Water Corporate
- 1x National Trust
- 2x Northumberland Park Authority
- 1x Newcastle Sixth Form College
- 1x Brocksbushes Fruit Farm
- 1x Sunderland Astronomy Society

Other experience:

- Self-build of home observatory.
- Technical advisor to Battlesteads Commercial Observatory.
- Teaching under 5s about the solar system in our childminding business.

Preferred Audience, (e.g. Primary Schools, Youth Groups, U3E, Community Groups, Under-graduate, Post-graduate, etc.)

- Any

Preferred Area of Work, (e.g. North Pennines AONB, Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland National Park, Kielder Water & Forest park, Northumberland Coast, Tyne & Wear, etc.)

- Any

Any Other Relevant Info

- Northumberland National Park Volunteer Ranger
- Northumberland National Park Heritage at Risk Volunteer

Client feedback:

- [Kath, Wallsend](#) - "Talk was pitched at a perfect level for beginners and easy to understand. I learned a lot tonight"
- [C. Neville, Co Durham](#) - "I thought the event was superb. Stargazing is something I have been interested in for a long time but I have struggled to understand or access it. I discovered so much in a short period of time and I feel a lot more knowledgeable now to begin a hobby in this.
The event was relaxed, informal and I felt comfortable to ask 'daft' questions. Thank you"
- [J.Hayes, Co Durham](#) - "The event was excellent - I learnt a lot and appreciated the simplicity of the presentations. Not too much jargon, letters and science!! Just enough technical stuff and very easy to understand. The "presenters" were very friendly and helped us to enjoy the evening despite the weather and the fact that we saw no stars!"
- [National Trust](#) - "Just to say a big thanks again for helping out last minute with our astronomy event on Wednesday.....we were all really happy with it and happy discussing with you guys about future events."
- [J.Dye, Herts](#) - "Many thanks for such an informative talk on Friday, really fired us up 😊"