

## HERSCHEL SOCIETY PLANS (HERSCHEL 200) and those of others for marking the 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM HERSCHEL'S DEATH ON 25 AUGUST 1822

This is the 4 April 2022 version. See latest here: <http://herschelsociety.org.uk/herschel-200-plans/>

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| <b>MAIN HERSCHEL SOCIETY CONFERENCE, CONCERT, and PRELIMINARY EVENING.</b>   |
| <b>Friday evening 23 Sept at BRLSI, Bath</b> – Preliminary evening showing of “William Herschel and the Universe” film, introduced by the maker, George Sibley, plus discussion. Intended as an optional introduction to the Herschel story. See trailer here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x56PKwsuEm0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x56PKwsuEm0</a>   |
| <b>Friday evening 30 September at St Swithin’s Church, Bath.</b> Concert of Herschel’s music along similar lines to that organised by Dr Matthew Spring for the RAS in 2021  |
| <b>Saturday October 1 Conference at BRLSI.</b> Lectures and discussion on William’s scientific achievements and their significance aimed at interested non- professionals. Detail in attached table at Annex A   |
| <b>ASSOCIATED EVENTS</b>   |
| <b>Friday 30 September-</b> British Institute for Organ Studies are organising a one- day meeting in Bath focusing on William as an organist with a lunchtime organ recital. Timed to avoid clash with HS evening concert.   |
| <b>Sunday Morning October 2</b> - Tour of Herschel related Bath led by Professor Mike Edmunds.   |
| <b>The SHA</b> (Society of History of Astronomy) will have their <b>summer picnic on Saturday 25 June</b> in Bath for up to 30 of their members with Herschel Museum visits and historical walks led by Mike Edmunds.  |
| <b>OTHER CONFERENCES</b>   |
| The <b>American Astronomical Society</b> held a Webinar on 5 March titled “New Views of William Herschel”. It is now available online here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7D8jWU2Nww">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7D8jWU2Nww</a>  |
| The <b>University of York</b> will be hosting - Cosmic Harmonies: A Symposium Celebrating the Life, Science, Music, and Legacy of William Herschel on <b>19 June 2022</b> .The symposium will explore new aspects of Herschel’s work as composer, instrumentalist, impresario, and astronomer in the intellectual, creative, and cultural contexts of his time. It will include a public keynote lecture by Professor Tom McLeish, a panel discussion on Herschel’s legacies, and a concert of Herschel’s music. |
| <b>MEDIA</b>   |
| <b>R4</b> – An “In Our Time” piece on William and Caroline was broadcast on November11 2021, with Dr Jim Bennett, Professor Monica Grady, and Dr Carolin Crawford as panellists.   |
| <b>R3</b> – Radio 3 put on a space-themed concert including some of William’s music on the same afternoon as In Our Time.<br>Presenter Sarah Walker played a Herschel Symphony and enthused about a Herschel Museum visit on her Essential Classics programme on Sunday Feb 20.  |
| <b>TELESCOPE MODELS etc</b>  |
| <b>A virtual 3D model of William’s main 20 ft telescope</b> is being made for electronic display and manipulation at the Museum and elsewhere. This is being undertaken as a project by undergraduate students at the Creative Computing School at Bath Spa University working with Charles Draper and Herschel Museum staff, with initial outputs by May.   |
| <b>Slough</b> events are being taken forward as part of the Herschel Museum programme in collaboration with the Slough Museum and other local groups. More detail on the Museum plans at Annex B   |
| The <b>RAS</b> are planning a suitable lecture in November 2022.   |
| <b>ANNIVERSARY RELATED BOOKS and Publications</b>  |
| Wolfgang Steinicke’s comprehensive book: William Herschel – Discoverer of the Deep Sky, was published for the Anniversary and is now available on Amazon   |
| Alex Voice has been producing high quality edited editions of William’s music on- line (here: <a href="https://herschelpress.co.uk/">https://herschelpress.co.uk/</a> to encourage more performance of it. Users are encouraged to give the Society a donation.  |

ANNEX A: H200 ASTRONOMY CONFERENCE at BRLSI, Bath on SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER 2022

| Serial | Timing | Event   | Content Summary  |
|--------|--------|---|--|
| 1      | 9.30   | <b>Charles Draper</b> - Welcome and admin Intro.  |  |
| 2      | 9.45   | <b>Mike Edmunds</b> - The Context of William's Life and Work.                                       | Potted biography to put remainder in context for all (No Q&A)  |
| 3      | 10.00  | <b>Jim Bennett</b> - William Herschel's Telescopes (Mod Mike Edmunds)                               | Why? How? Alexander's role. Impact. Q&A.   |
| 4      | 1045   | Coffee  |  |
| 5      | 11.00  | <b>Wolfgang Steinicke</b> – William Herschel's Astronomy (Mod Charles Draper)                       | William's observing techniques, including Caroline's role. Discoveries and their impact. Thinking on stellar distances, motions, and nebulae. Q&A. |
| 6      | 12.00  | <b>Sian Prosser</b> – William and Caroline in their own words. (Mod Charles Draper)                 | From RAS Library. Q&A  |
| 7      | 12.45  | Lunch break and Bob Fosbury IR demo   | Informal bench demo  |
| 8      | 13.45  | <b>Josh Nall</b> – William Herschel and Georgian Views on Extraterrestrial Life. (Mod Mike Edmunds) | Q&A  |
| 9      | 14.30  | <b>Michael Perryman</b> – Giant Strides from Herschel to GAIA (Mod Bob Fosbury)                     | The achievements and potential of GAIA and other modern surveying telescopes and their links back to William and Caroline's methods. Q&A.          |
| 10     | 15.30  | Coffee  |  |
| 11     | 15.45  | <b>Round Table</b> (Mod Charles Draper)   | Open discussion with previous speakers and Allan Chapman and further Q&A   |
| 12     | 16.45  | <b>Allan Chapman</b>  | Lighthearted closing remarks   |
| 13     | 17.00  | Close and thanks by <b>Charles Draper</b> . Closing drinks for those at BRLSI                       | Finish 17.45   |

## ANNEX B – HERSCHEL MUSEUM OF ASTRONOMY PLANS

The Herschel Society is working closely with the Herschel Museum's plans to mark the anniversary. They have secured almost £61,000 for this from the Heritage Lottery Fund. They will work with partner organisations to create a year-long programme of activity, using the anniversary to better connect audiences with William's story, and encourage inspiration, learning and enjoyment. The museum team and wider partners will engage as wide and diverse an audience as possible with William's life and work, and those who influenced him, including Caroline. The programme includes:

- Free access to new planetarium shows in partnership with the University of Bath, Bath Astronomers and Percy Community Centre for disadvantaged families in Bath
- Free craft workshops, enabling families to visit the museum and develop creative responses of their choosing
- An exhibition with the Royal Astronomical Society and the Herschel family, that will bring collections to Bath for the first time and reveal the Herschel story through original artefacts
- Students will develop content and learn new curatorial skills with the support of our professional team
- School projects provide a creative programme of participation.
- A light box installation by UK artist Lynda Laird will encourage new, artistic audiences to the museum
- We will create a downloadable map based on research by volunteers from the Herschel Society that highlights the locations across the UK with Herschel connections
- New museum trails will make collections accessible for everyone. The public will participate, voting for the objects in the trail and taking ownership of their experience
- A commemorative stone in the garden will mark the anniversary and serve as a telescope platform, providing a legacy and marking the very spot where the planet Uranus was discovered
- Herschel Museum of Astronomy events will continue with the support of Bath Astronomers
- A new partnership with Slough Museum will enable them to co-design performances, exhibitions and participatory activity to engage the communities of Slough with the story of William Herschel.

You can see more detail at the website here: <https://herschelmuseum.org.uk/herschel-200/>