

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018/19





"I emerged from the trees onto a hilltop flooded with moonlight, and the fear slipped away as I stood and looked up at the sky, my eyes wandering from star to star until I no longer felt vulnerable at all – just another cluster of atoms in an unknowable universe."

Tiffany Francis, Forestry Commission writer in residence



Kielder Observatory continues to make great progress in its mission to inspire, enthuse and educate the public about the wonders of our universe.

The opening of the Gillian Dickinson Astro-imaging Academy in 2018 enabled us to offer a wider range of events and to welcome and inspire many more visitors on site.

We've also increased capacity across the team, with more science communicators and more resource to support the operations. In addition, we are very pleased to welcome our new CEO, Catherine Johns, whose name will already be familiar to many in the space industry.

And we were delighted to be awarded a contract by the North of Tyne Combined Authority, through which we will reach out to at least 30,000 students over the next three years.

2018/19 has been a successful and inspiring year, for which I thank the staff, the volunteers and the trustees for all their hard work, and our many local partners for their commitment and support.

Peter Standfield, Chair of Trustees





Kielder Observatory is a centre for public outreach in the science of astronomy and physics. It serves to promote the universe to our guests, enabling people from all walks of life and levels of interest to access the visual splendour of the cosmos.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"The enthusiasm and knowledge of the staff deserve 5 stars"

"The staff are so lovely and friendly and their presentations are so informative. I can't wait to go back already!"

"Not worrying about our future now, we are less than a speck in relation to the universe."

"What an experience. Dark skies at Kielder Observatory - informative incredible entertaining and fascinating."

"What a fantastic evening spent at the observatory. The observatory itself is worth seeing and the views are spectacular."

"In all, this was a humbling experience which I cannot wait to do again."

"A fabulous evening @kielder_obs. Amazing staff with a compelling passion for their subject. Really puts things in perspective. #wowfactor"

"Fantastic astrophotography night at @kielder_obs. The team there were great, highly recommended evening."



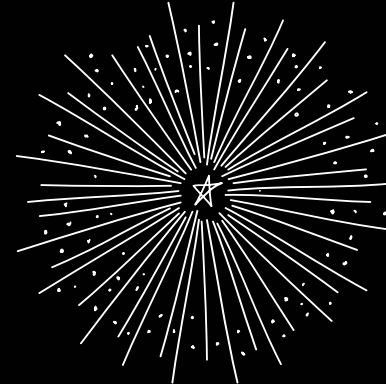


IN NUMBERS

Over £1M economic impact



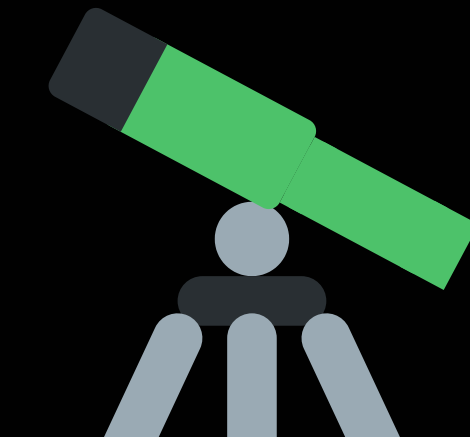
1 of only 2 observatories in England
in IDA certified Dark Sky Parks



Open 360 days a year



Over 19,000 visitors

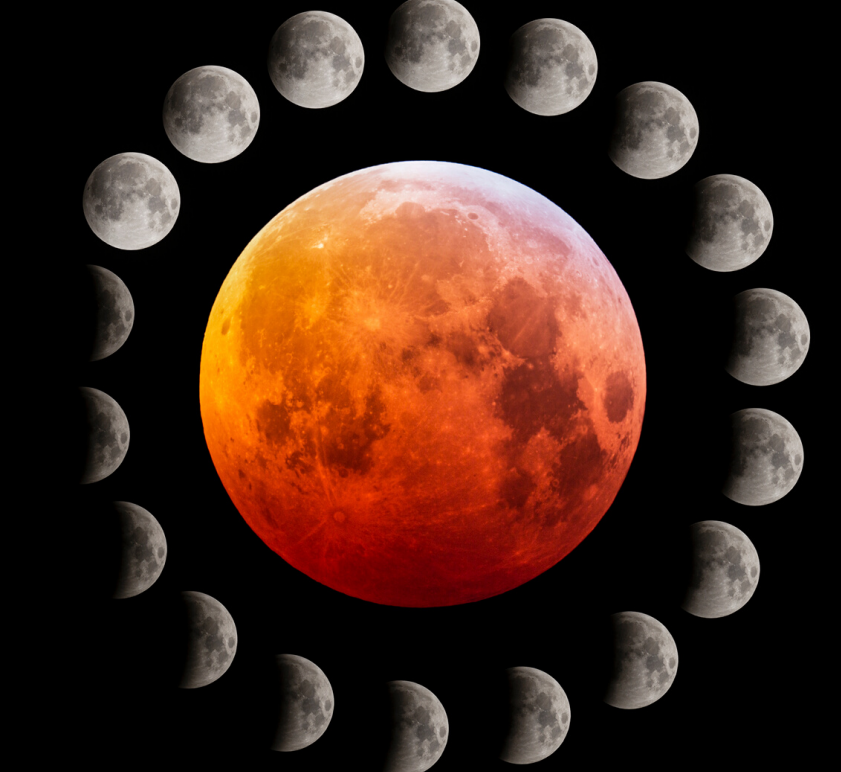


733 public events

MEET THE TEAM

- **Jesse Beaman**, Science Communication
- **Alison Booth**, Finance
- **Hayden Goodfellow**, Science Communication
- **Nazanin Jahanshahi**, Science Communication and Sustainability
- **Natasha Lund**, Science Communication and Arts
- **Ellie MacDonald**, Science Communication
- **Daniel Monk**, Senior Astronomer and Dark Sky Outreach
- **George Pattinson**, Science Communication and Science Development
- **Patti Purcell**, Office and Quality Management
- **Daniel Pye**, Science Communication and Visitor Experience
- **Adam Shore**, Science Communication and Education Outreach
- **Heather Woodfine**, Administration and Marketing





I'm delighted to join Kielder Observatory at such an exciting time in its development.

I took the role because of two things.

Firstly the team and the trustees, who I found to be committed, ambitious and highly skilled and knowledgeable.

Secondly, because I saw that moment of wonder on the faces of visitors as they looked at the stars.

That moment of hope is transformative and it is our gift to everyone who visits.

We have many priorities for the next 12 months but top of my list is to support the amazing team to continue to deliver inspirational events, and work closely with partners to deliver the "Kielder moment" to as many people as possible.

Catherine Johns, CEO





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