

“By far the best organised series of events and the most stimulating, rewarding and enjoyable week for the people of Grantham in my 16 year memory. At last we celebrate a rich vein of our heritage.... Great to have the freedom of our own streets....something for every age group”

Rev. Canon Chris Andrews
Rector, St. Wulframs Church, Grantham

**gravity
fields**
festival 2012
SOUTH KESTIVEN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



2012...Newton's Moment To Shine



“ It is a pleasure to return to Grantham for a festival dedicated to the life and career of Newton. He has been an inspiration to not only me but countless others to follow his path of scientific discovery and Gravity Fields cannot fail to inspire a whole new audience ”

Professor Valerie Gibson, Professor of High Energy Physics, Grantham born and educated, the most senior woman Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge and part of an international collaboration working on experiments at the Large Hadron Collider in CERN, Geneva

and how well it went...

- Presentations and events from over 20 of the nation's leading physical scientists, astronomers and international science and academic speakers, with science, arts and heritage events - all themed on Sir Isaac Newton
- A finale Transformation of the Town in Grantham including the creative commissions of Cirque Bijou's 'Starstruck' and 'Pendulum Fires' in the Market Place by the World Famous'
- Large scale community participation - over 1,000 people from 30 community groups and schools participated
- Five touring theatre shows were programmed (one commissioned for the festival) at Grantham Guildhall, Stamford Arts Centre and Walton Girls' School theatre
- A Giant Steps audio drama specially commissioned and professionally written by Craig Baxter, recorded by the University of Lincoln and performed by local drama groups with broadcast on local BBC and excerpts on national BBC Radio 4.
- Three concerts and three sound installations were presented at St Wulfram's Church, Newton's birthplace Woolsthorpe Manor and The George Centre
- Two high profile visual arts exhibitions and one ancient books exhibition
- An education programme with heritage, science and arts as curriculum gold dust

Festival Director: Rosemary Richards, Rosa Productions Ltd



With 100+ events over eight special days in September 2012, Gravity Fields celebrated the thinking and discoveries of one of the greatest scientists of all time, Sir Isaac Newton

The festival was supported by South Kesteven District Council and staged in and around Grantham, where Newton was educated. It included his birthplace of Woolsthorpe Manor, from where he embarked on a quest for knowledge that changed the world

Stand out names included Dr Chris Lintott, Sky at Night co-presenter, Astronomer Royal Professor Martin Rees, and BBC One Show's Dr Marty Jopson

science events for all ages...

BBC 'Bang Goes the Theory' presenter Dallas Campbell - met off the train by 'Isaac Newton' - opened the festival with a special presentation to students at Woolsthorpe Manor and a public festival opening at The George Centre

Family science events included a science activities day at The George Centre, shows from The Science Museum, National Space Centre, BBC One Show's Marty Jopson, and a family boomerang making day with Dr Hugh Hunt, a senior engineering lecturer from the University of Cambridge



A science and technology event flagging up access to funding and support for business was held at Stoke Rochford Hall, opened by MP Nick Boles, Planning Minister, and co-hosted with De Montfort University

Astronomer Royal, Professor Martin Rees unveiled a new plaque dedicated to Sir Isaac Newton - yards from where the young Newton boarded at an apothecary shop. He also presented a keynote talk on planets and the universe

drama and arts events...

Touring Shows included:

LEO – Circle of Eleven
 Ethometric Museum – Ray
 Lee produced by OCM
 The Trials of Galileo – Hint of
 Lime Productions
 Hanging Hooke – Take the
 Space Productions
 The Ethics of Progress –
 Unlimited Theatre
 Longplayer by Jem Finer at
 Woolsthorpe Manor (sound
 installation through the
 week)



On location.....

Gravity Fields spread throughout Grantham and its surroundings thanks to location partners

Angel and Royal Hotel	Masonic Hall, Grantham
The George Street	National Portrait Gallery
Grantham Baptist Church	Belton House
Grantham Museum	The Priory Business Centre
Harlaxton Manor	Walton Girls School
Kesteven and Grantham	Woodland Trust
Girls' School	Woolsthorpe Manor
The King's School	Cummings, Stamford

Music Events included:

Festival Opening Concert with Lincoln Pro Musica and St Wulfram's Chamber Choir
 Recital by Dr Tim Williams
 Recitals by Douglas Hollick
 Lincolnshire bands playing in town for Transformation of the Town

New Arts Commissions included:

Cirque Bijou, Starstruck
 Craig Baxter - Giant Steps
 Deadgood - White Light
 Dizzy O'Dare Presents - The Grantham Apothecary
 Laury Dizengremel - Newton's Colour Wheel - Jack Klaff - Newton - Tour De Force
 The World Famous - Pendulum Fires - Shademakers - Newton processions



“ Love, love, love Gravity Fields ”
 Dallas Campbell

“ First ever visit to Woolsthorpe and it's incredibly special ”
 Dr Chris Lintott (BBC Sky at Night)

“ Congratulations on organising such an ambitious week! I was very glad to be part of it ”
 Professor Martin Rees
 Astronomer Royal

Transformation of the Town...



Shademakers international carnival company worked with local artists to lead around 30 schools, community groups and colleges designing Newtonian themed processional images and costumes for the finale processions. The community participation workshops spanned five months. In the Market Place, The World Famous created giant 'Pendulum Fires'



“The spectrum of ideas were endless. The community proved that they want to bring Grantham alive and shine. Wonderfully bold, intellectually challenging - out of this world ”
Shademakers Carnival Club



Curriculum gold dust and true legacy...

The education programme, sponsored by Cummins Generator Technologies of Stamford, proved an educational gem for Key Stages 2 and 3 through to sixth form. Science Museum shows and the National Space centre's planetarium were early sell-outs. An apothecary enthralled youngsters

during the week and an alchemist's shop offered the chance to create the 'philosopher's stone' (gold)

Free after school talks were given by amazing speakers and Cummins staged two sixth formers' careers days at their Stamford headquarters

deadgood, white light...



The festival commissioned Deadgood Studios to present a lightwork, 'White Light', reflecting Newton's work 'Opticks', in which Newton describes his experiments splitting white light through a prism into the colours of the rainbow

In 2011 the Studios had explored creating a rainbow effect for the Lumiere festival in Durham. For the Gravity Fields Festival they took their learning to create a new lightwork using white light hitting the church spire to appear to create a rainbow spectrum of colour around the whole spire of the church



**Absolutely fantastic week.
Well done all. Amazing finale**
Shaun Howell, Festival fan

What an impact!

A positive and enduring impact

Darren Hobbs, Science Co-ordinator Grantham Additional Needs Federation, involved with Gravity Fields and ran pupils' own Science Festival Week alongside, wrote...

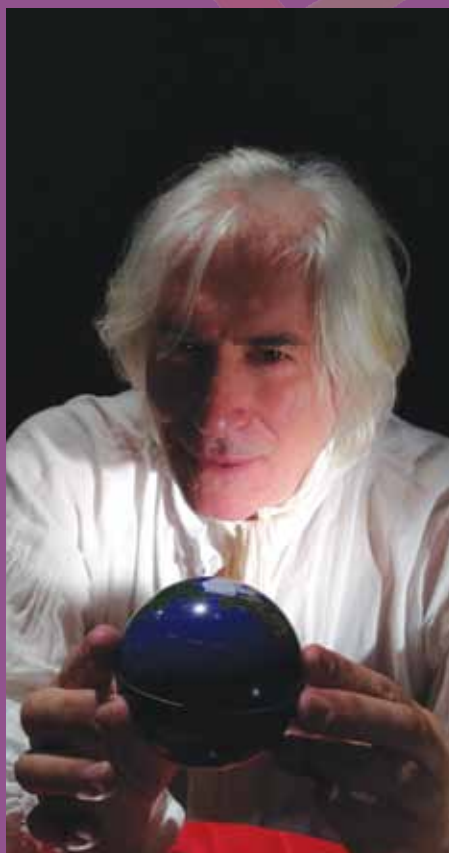
"The feedback from the students was the biggest reward of all. Every student who spoke to me during the week was positive and motivated. Key words such as Isaac Newton, Forces, Gravity, Grantham, Light and Colours were spoken in the corridors, classes and staff rooms. The positive and enduring impact of Gravity Fields was felt throughout our Federation and it provided a stimulus for us to embrace and explore science in a very focussed way. Please can we take part again"

theatre...

Jack Klaff. Newton – Tour de Force

Written and performed
by Jack Klaff, directed
by Colin Watkeys and
produced by Tish Francis
Associates

The show had its premiere
at Stamford Arts Centre
on the opening evening
of the festival, with two
further performances
during Gravity Fields.
In addition to the
performances, Jack took
an active role at the
festival – filling the role
of toastmaster at the
heritage banquet, and
becoming a familiar face
at events throughout the
festival



**First time in months one
man has kept my rapt
attention for 1½ hours.
Thanks Jack Klaff 4 the
brilliant performance....
Amazed at how he
portrays 28 characters
to tell story of Sir Isaac
Newton. Bravo**

Rita Jackson, Festival fan

**The level of excitement
surrounding this festival
was gratifying and
surprisingly high. Now
when I think of Grantham,
my head is full of vivid
images, great memories
and many discussions**

Jack Klaff, actor



Stunning social media...

Paul Wilson, social media
guru, used every Newton angle
imaginable to great effect
He wrote: “Going from
scratch, we achieved an
active, enthusiastic and
complimentary Facebook
audience and a following on
Twitter in excess of 3500
people. This is something I’m

incredibly proud to have been
involved in

Even more remarkable are the
“influencer” ratings achieved
by the universally recognized
social media tool Klout
Remarkably, our Klout rating
which peaked at 70 during the
festival itself, overtook and
then rated consistently higher

than long established and
nationally recognised festivals.
Undoubtedly the biggest
impact of all was the opening
ceremony of the Paralympic
Games, just three weeks before
the festival. As one person
tweeted: ‘Loved your 3 hour
advert during Paralympics
opening!’

community drama and art ...



“ What a great week! It was amazing to see the celebration of a great scientist bringing such a diversity of people together ”

Dr Hugh Hunt
Senior Lecturer in Engineering,
University of Cambridge

The festival commissioned a local sculptor to involve local people on the night of the Transformation of the Town. The end result was a Newtonian colour wheel, designed and built by the sculptor Laury Dizengremel. It reflected the rainbow colour spectrum on the spire of the Church and invited the audience to paint their own colour wheels

The festival was awarded support from BBC Outreach to employ a scriptwriter to write *Giant Steps*, a community audio drama which was broadcast on BBC Lincolnshire during the festival week and had extracts broadcast on BBC Radio 4's *Material World*. The radio drama was written by Craig Baxter and the performers were cast mainly from Grantham Dramatic Society and Grantham Youth

Theatre. The audio drama was recorded by students and ex-students from the University of Lincoln audio production course on location at St Wulfram's Church in Grantham and Woolsthorpe Manor, and scenes were recorded at the University of Lincoln studios. An extract from *Giant Steps* was performed on the Transformation of the Town evening in front of Newton's statue



Dizzy O'Dare presents, the Grantham apothecary...

The festival team created a 17th century apothecary shop in the George Retail Centre, next to where Isaac Newton lodged. It was in place for the whole week of the festival and was open for visits by members of the public, schools, and for the Giant Steps audio tour

Dizzy O'Dare was commissioned to animate the apothecary and the performers also collaborated (in role) on the opening of the festival, with BBC TV presenter Dallas Campbell. They took some of the performance moments into the mall area and into the street for the Transformation evening



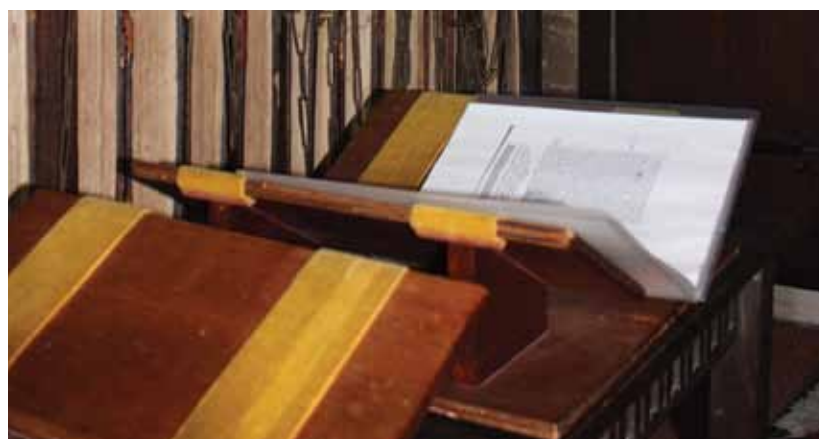
In creating the apothecary environment we involved 'Alchemy Jack' (Jack Greene), a props and set provider from Newark who also performs as an alchemist and apothecary. An additional outcome of this was that Alchemy Jack worked with members of the Grantham Dramatic Society to animate a separate alchemy lab which Grantham College students decorated



“ Festival success far surpassed our expectations in its inaugural year both for programme variety and quality and the way that Grantham and the whole district supported it. There has been an absolute wave of positivity from comments and feedback. Overall it has been fantastic and everyone has agreed it was a great triumph ”
Cllr Linda Neal, Leader SKDC

heritage events...

Ancient books from the 16th century hidden Trigge Library saw the light of day in the chapel of St Wulfram's Church in a special exhibition with advice from the British Library



Woolsthorpe Manor, the birthplace and family home of Sir Isaac Newton, now run by the National Trust, held a family Rural Crafts day. The Manor was also one of the Education Experience locations for Key Stage 2 and hosted a night time Moongaze with Dr Chris Lintott



Food historian Annie Gray supported the menu planning and recipes for a 17th century banquet held at Harlaxton Manor. The menu featured Salamagundy and Whip't Syllabub among other period dishes

exhibitions...



National Portrait Gallery

National Trust/National Portrait Gallery,

The Age of Enlightenment

The National Portrait Gallery display, 17 works specially transported from London, drew together oil paintings, miniatures and prints of some of the early scientific pioneers and founders of the Royal Society, including Sir Isaac Newton. Host Belton House reported an upsurge of 1,500 visitors during Festival week

'The Age of Enlightenment' represents the most impressive art collection ever seen in the locality and certainly was an important artistic reflection of the age of scientific discovery



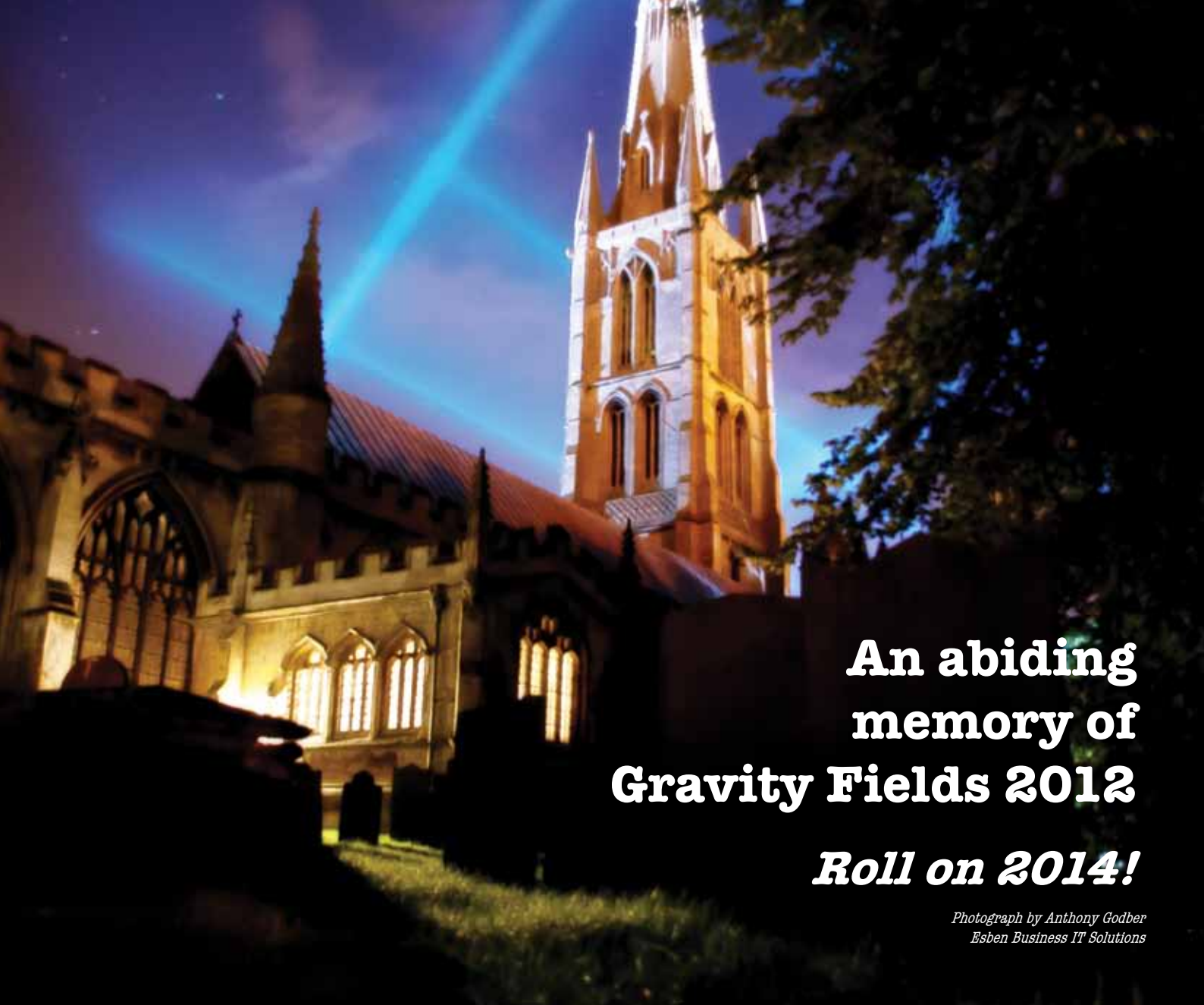
Grantham Museum/Penguin Books

Ladybird Paintings Exhibition

An exhibition of 40+ framed and unframed paintings was a first, centred around two Ladybird classics: the Night Sky and Exploring Space. Now firmly established as design classics, Loughborough based Ladybird books brought the wonders of the scientific world to life for countless children - a world of astronomers, inventors, explorers and naturalists - and re-kindled countless memories for visitors to Grantham Museum's Ladybird exhibition



BBC presenter Dallas Campbell brought his favourite Ladybird book to the festival, and found a friend



An abiding memory of Gravity Fields 2012

Roll on 2014!

*Photograph by Anthony Godber
Esben Business IT Solutions*



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by
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ENGLAND**



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Trust



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