



Science in Society Outreach

AFTER 3.8 BILLION YEARS OF EVOLUTION WE'VE FINALLY MET: **HELLO!**

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My own background...

- I grew up in Britain where my future was mapped out for me...
- In Leeds City Council's eyes I was fodder for the factories of West Yorkshire... my future didn't look too bright
- But I knew different! I refused to be pigeon-holed and I wanted a purpose for my life; just to say I was here...
- So I broke the chains and by studying, I pursued my dream of becoming a scientist
- How much better would it have been if there had been outreach then?

My mission...

- It's been... 3.8 billion years and we're the product of evolution and we're here.
- We can make a big difference to our own and everyone else's lives...
- My mission is to inspire and motivate young people to become scientists and engineers – and to generally fulfil their potential
- My focus is on people from deprived backgrounds in the UK and those who live in developing nations



The problem...

- ▶ Religion... is big
- ▶ Lethargy & apathy
- ▶ Scepticism
- ▶ Hand-outs



The Enthusiasm...



Blantyre High School, Blantyre, March 2016



Hunger for learning...



Inspirational outreach topics

- ▶ Lateral thinking and engineering problem solving demos
- ▶ Astrochemistry
- ▶ Astrophotography
- ▶ Origin of life
- ▶ Study of meteorites
- ▶ Space race
- ▶ Astronomy: The Universe and everything

My contribution so far...

- ▶ A Celestron NexStar Evolution 8 with StarSense AutoAlign and associated accessories donated to Zambia and Malawi

Provided funding for :

- ▶ The Sohan Jheeta Travel Award with ISSOL
- ▶ The Sohan Jheeta Travel Award with EANA
- ▶ The Sohan Jheeta Travel Award with NoR HGT & LUCA
- ▶ The Sohan Jheeta Travel Award with ASB

2017 projects:

- ▶ Proposals for 5m Planetarium Dome, housing either 25 adults or 40 children for Zambia / Malawi



Outcomes

- ▶ There is now a real buzz in Kitwe, Blantyre and Zomba
- ▶ Positive feedback received from students and staff alike
- ▶ Students are looking forward to my next visits
- ▶ Excitement about the astronomy club



Extending the scope of outreach

- Where do we go from here?
- I seek to inspire others - a philanthropic quest
- Aim to extend my activities to include outreach in the Danakill Depression
- Funding would be required from other sources
- I need affiliation with an institution to manage these objectives successfully

Making news...





Thank you

Any questions please