

TITLE: THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS' OBSERVATORY

CAPTION: "THE GIANT ROBOTIC LIVERPOOL TELESCOPE ON LA PALMA IN THE CANARY ISLANDS LIES AT THE HEART OF THE NSO"



by **ANDREW NEWSAM**

DATE: 29 APRIL 2021

TIME: 6.30PM (BOTSWANA)

ZOOM LINK:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83361785204](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83361785204)

MEETING ID: 833 6178 5204

ABSTRACT

It is well-known that astronomy creates a sense of excitement and wonder in most students. The UK National Schools' Observatory (NSO - www.schoolsobservatory.org) taps into that interest to explore science, mathematics and technology. The NSO was originally set up to provide a way for pupils to take their own observations with the world's largest fully-robotic telescope - the Liverpool Telescope in the Canary Islands - and for more than a decade it has been doing exactly that with nearly 200,000 observations requested by students of all ages. Now expanding to involve school children outside the UK, the Schools' Observatory is opening up access to the universe for all.



BIOGRAPHY

Andy Newsam is Professor of Astronomy Education and Engagement at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU). After studying cosmology at Glasgow University, and working as an observational astronomer at the University of Southampton, he joined LJMU in 1998 to help set up the educational arm of the Liverpool Telescope, which later became the National Schools' Observatory, one of the largest astronomy education projects in the world. As well as astronomical research and education he is a keen science communicator, giving talks to many thousands of schoolchildren, amateur astronomers and the general public throughout the UK and beyond, as well as working with artists of all kinds on new ways - from show gardens to street theatre - to bring the delights of astronomy to as many people as possible.