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Northumbria project brings solar science to the lakeside

A unique Northumbria University project which combines science and art is to feature at a prestigious Cumbrian literary festival.

Imagining the Sun brings poet Katrina Porteous, composer Peter Zinovieff and visual artist Helen Schell together with Northumbria's solar physics research group – a group of scientists specialising in exploring the sun's activity and its impact on earth.

The group are engaging with school children across the North East through

Northumbria's NUSTEM team, working to inform and educate young people on both the arts and science and how the two can work together.

Now the group will present their work during the Words by the Water festival at Keswick's Theatre by the Lake, alongside the likes of broadcaster Melvyn Bragg, TV presenter Peter Snow and novelist Salley Vickers.

During the talk solar physicist Dr Richard Morton and NUSTEM director Dr Carol Davenport, both of Northumbria, will team up with poet Katrina and artist Helen in a unique performance – the culmination of the collaboration between the researchers and the artists.

The session will include poetry, art and science, demonstrating how creativity and imagination can help us discover more about the sun and articulate our understanding through a variety of mediums.

In addition, Helen's visual artwork and Katrina's poems will be featured within one of the theatre's gallery spaces for the entirety of the event, which runs from today until Sunday 12 March.

Words by the Water is a 10-day programme of literary talks, lectures, discussions, workshops, book launches and special exhibitions, organised by Way with Words and now in its fourteenth year.

The festival features well-known figures from the world of broadcasting and writing including doctor and humourist Phil Hammond, festival president Melvyn Bragg, novelist A.L. Kennedy and stand-up comedian Mark Watson. It also includes figures from the world of politics, with Vince Cable, Rory Stewart, David Owen and Alan Johnson among those appearing. For more information visit <https://www.theatrebythelake.com/words-by-the-water-festival>

The NUSTEM project is based in Northumbria's faculty of Engineering and Environment and aims to encourage and inspire the next generation of science, technology, mathematics and engineering students through a wide variety of educational events. For more information about NUSTEM visit <https://nustem.uk/>. More information about the *Imagining the Sun* project can be found at <http://thinkphysics.org/imagining-the-sun/>

Extreme Environments is one of Northumbria's eight Multidisciplinary Research Themes. Researchers in this area are exploring conditions that challenge the existence of most known life forms on the Earth's surface, subsurface and oceans as well as its atmosphere and in the solar systems.

To find out more about Northumbria's Mathematics, Physics and Electrical Engineering department and the courses available, visit

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/academic-departments/mathematics-physics-and-electrical-engineering/>

Northumbria is a research-rich, business-focused, professional university with a global reputation for academic excellence. To find out more about our courses go to www.northumbria.ac.uk

If you have a media enquiry please contact our Media and Communications team at media.communications@northumbria.ac.uk or call [0191 227 4571](tel:01912274571).

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