



# JODRELL BANK'S FIRST LIGHT PAVILION OFFICIALLY OPENED BY UK AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO

- On 21<sup>st</sup> June, Jodrell Bank's £21.5m development, the First Light Pavilion was officially opened by Her Excellency, Laura Davis, UK Ambassador to UNESCO.
- Also present were James Bridge, Chief Executive and Secretary General of the UK National Commission for UNESCO, David Renwick, Director, England, North, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President and Vice-Chancellor, The University of Manchester.
- The celebratory event marked the occasion of the summer solstice and attendees witnessed the first alignment of the building's meridian line.

Jodrell Bank's ambitious £21.5m development, the **First Light Pavilion** was officially opened at a special event on the summer solstice, **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June** in the company of over 100 esteemed guests.

The sun shone as guests were welcomed to **The University of Manchester's** iconic Jodrell Bank site and invited to tour the new building. The Pavilion had been years in the making and followed Jodrell Bank's formal recognition as a site of Outstanding Universal Value when it was awarded **UNESCO World Heritage Site** status in 2019.

The unique structure is a 76m diameter grass-topped dome that mirrors the shape and scale of the dish of the **Lovell Telescope**. Created to open up the site's inspirational heritage, inside houses a state-of-the-art permanent exhibition on the pioneering stories of Jodrell Bank, and a 130-seat immersive auditorium.

27 June 2022  
Jodrell Bank, Cheshire, UK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



After exploring the stunning new attraction, guests gathered for a series of speeches and a joyous plaque unveiling ceremony in the First Light Café.

Speaking at the ceremony, Her Excellency Laura Davies said ***“What an absolute privilege to officially open the First Light Pavilion here at Jodrell Bank, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that brings science, education and culture together like no other.”***

She also congratulated the team behind the project saying ***“You’ve all contributed to something extraordinary which will endure and open minds across generations and countries.”***

David Renwick, Director, England, North, The National Lottery Heritage Fund also spoke at the event, thanking National Lottery players for raising funds for the project. ***“We’re delighted to have supported the opening of the First Light Pavilion, something we couldn’t have done without National Lottery players. We’re sure that this state-of-the-art visitor attraction will delight and inspire all of its visitors, including the next generation of scientists and engineers to follow in the footsteps of Sir Bernard Lovell.”***

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester who also spoke at the event, has commented ***“This bold and ambitious project has been a great success. It is a huge testament to Professor Teresa Anderson and her staff and many others within the University for their amazing work.”***

After Her Excellency Laura Davies had unveiled a plaque marking the special occasion, guests were then invited to witness the first alignment of the Pavilion’s meridian line. A brass-lined glass cutaway in the building’s façade reveals the light of the sun as it shines through and across the floor of the entrance. At 13:11, local astronomical noon on the summer solstice, the sunlight aligned to a central marker just as planned, and involuntary cheers and applause rang out.

Teresa Anderson, Director of Jodrell Bank Centre for Engagement has spearheaded the project throughout and said of the occasion ***“It was wonderful to celebrate our journey towards the First Light Pavilion with so many partners and supporters on the Summer Solstice. It’s a project that has involved an incredible team of creative, skilled and committed people, all of whom have put their hearts into it. The result something really special and unique – there is nothing like it anywhere in the world - and it will stand at Jodrell Bank for generations to come, offering people of all ages a chance to be inspired by our place in the Universe.”***

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First Light at Jodrell Bank is supported by **The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The UK Government (DCMS), The University of Manchester**, and a number of kind donors including **The Wolfson, Garfield Weston, Denise Coates, and Stavros Niarchos foundations**.

Jodrell Bank is open to visitors Tuesdays – Sundays, 10am – 5pm with last admission at 3:30pm. Tickets include access to the new Pavilion and are priced at £12 for adults and £8 for children. **Find out more at [www.jodrellbank.net](http://www.jodrellbank.net)**

**-ENDS-**

**IMAGES:**

Images can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0xy974s4w4uy3dr/AACTYjiKs2RFUsyhi9GDkpbOa?dl=0>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For further information, including to request images, interviews or press visits, please contact:

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**About Jodrell Bank**

Founded in 1945, Jodrell Bank's inspirational story includes revolutionary scientific discoveries, amazing feats of engineering, the dawn of the Space Age and the creation of the Grade I listed Lovell Telescope, an icon for British science and engineering. The site is proudly owned by The University of Manchester and is part of The Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics a world-leading science research institute, and The Jodrell Bank Centre for Engagement, a multi award-winning centre for excellence in public participation and engagement with science, culture and heritage.

Jodrell Bank was inscribed by UNESCO on the World Heritage Site list in 2019 in recognition of its internationally significance science, heritage and cultural impact.

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[www.jodrellbank.net](http://www.jodrellbank.net)

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### **About The University of Manchester**

Jodrell Bank is part of The University of Manchester and helps deliver the University's vision to advance education, knowledge and wisdom for the good of society.

The **University of Manchester**, a member of the prestigious **Russell Group**, is the UK's largest single-site university with 38,600 students. It has 20 academic schools and hundreds of specialist research groups undertaking pioneering, multi-disciplinary teaching and research of worldwide significance.

The University is one of the country's major research institutions, rated fifth in the UK in terms of 'research power' (REF 2014), and has had no fewer than 25 Nobel laureates either work or study there.

[www.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.manchester.ac.uk)

### **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future.

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

[www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)