

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM OPENS

A dream fulfilled



Armagh Planetarium was formally opened by Northern Ireland Prime Minister Terence O'Neill on 1st May 1968.

Armagh Planetarium opens 1st May 1968

Among the VIPs attending the ceremony was a delighted Dr Lindsay. After twenty-five years his dream had reached fruition. Armagh Planetarium was an immediate success with the public. Soon it was hosting 50 000 visitors a year and winning awards as a visitor attraction.



Left: PM O'Neill with Dr and Mrs Lindsay at the opening ceremony

Right: Front page news!

Creating the illusion of Space

When it opened, the Planetarium's Star Theatre was dominated by the black spidery projector which was encircled by reclined seating for 100 people. Soon special effects projectors were added to the Star Theatre, to enhance shows with images of rotating planets and moving spacecraft, and even panoramas of alien landscapes. Each effect needed its own dedicated projector, so over 50 individual slide projectors were housed on a specially built circular shelf around the dome. This system was very complex but worked brilliantly.

