

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM IN THE 1990s

Dawn of the Digistar era



The Digistar 2 projector sat in the centre of the Theatre and used a fisheye lens to project the starfield

This decade saw the arrival of our first digital projector, an Evans & Sutherland Digistar 1. This was a revolutionary new approach to planetarium display equipment. Breaking with the fifty-year-old traditional 'star ball' design, the new projector formed each star on a TV tube individually under computer control. A custom 'fish-eye' lens projected the stars on the dome. This was the first Digistar projector to be installed in the UK. Once again Armagh Planetarium was leading the way.

Determined to keep abreast of the latest technology, the Planetarium upgraded the Digistar 1 to a more powerful Digistar 2 as soon as it became available.



Looking back to Earth

Armagh Planetarium continued to broaden our appeal to our customer base and expanded our facilities. In 1994 a new section was added to our building, doubling its size. We added major exhibits featuring the environment and the Earth sciences. Visitors could see the latest meteorological images as they were beamed down from the satellites. There was increasing emphasis on 'hands on' science for audiences of all ages. We added interactive computer systems to demonstrate the fundamentals of astronomy. For example you could design your own telescope on screen and then see a simulated view of the Planetarium through it.

A walk through the stars



Our Astropark opened in 1994. This is a scale model of the Universe where visitors can walk through the Solar System and into the Milky Way and beyond. Our grounds are landscaped and dotted with stainless steel scale models of the planets.

Armagh's Astropark allows visitors to walk through the Cosmos