

that Public Engagement isn't only about the presenting, but all of the behind-the-scenes work too.



Other awards given out that night included the Communications Award to Prof Monica Grady (The Open University) for her work communicating her research including the Philae landing. In this category, a Highly Commended was awarded to Dr Karen Masters (Portsmouth) for her ongoing projects communicating her galaxy evolution research.

The Achievement Award was won by Prof David Berman (QMUL) for his ten years of carrying out extremely varied Public Engagement projects.



A highly commended was awarded to Prof Andrew Norton (The Open University) for his long-term helping out with many BBC / Open collaborations amongst many other projects.

Finally the Innovation Project Award was given to the Reflecting Photonics team from Southampton that you read

about on our front page. This project targeted an audiences that normally wouldn't engage with Physics and really impressed the selection panel!



The awards are taking a break in 2016 but will be back in late 2017. This gives you plenty of time to work on your ideas, and who knows, you may be picking up the Innovation Award or the Newcomer Award then...

### Running your own blog: Astroquizzical

I run a blog called Astroquizzical which came into being after sitting at a booth at a university event with a sign pointing to me saying "ASK THE ASTRONOMER". I didn't have a free five minutes through the whole three hour event, and wound up answering questions I couldn't have made up. With some encouragement, I decided to try and set up a similar space online, but I was pretty convinced it would fail in about a month or two. I figured the worst case scenario would be that no one would read it, and I would at least get some practice writing for a non-scientific audience, which seemed like it would be useful.

Astroquizzical is set up to accept anonymous questions about space, which I then try and answer as clearly and as interestingly as I can. I was pleasantly surprised that Astroquizzical did not flop immediately, and I continue to be pleasantly surprised both that it is still going and at the opportunities that it has opened for me. It has now been going since 2013, gathering over 750 subscribers across all platforms, and I have answered over 120 questions, with many more awaiting answers.