



PRESS RELEASE

DORSET MOON LANDS IN SHERBORNE THIS WEEKEND

Excitement is building in Sherborne for the arrival of internationally acclaimed Museum of the Moon which lands at Sherborne Abbey from Friday 5th - Sunday 7th July.

It has travelled all over the world and wowed thousands, now Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon has made its way to Dorset for the first time as part of Dorset Moon; an exciting three-location arts event for summer 2019 where the moon is the centrepiece of a full programme of lunar-inspired experiences. The event opened at St Peter's Church in Bournemouth last weekend and moves to historic Sherborne this week.

Celebrating 50 years since the first moon landing, Luke Jerram's moon measures seven metres in diameter and features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. Over its lifetime, the Museum of the Moon will be presented in a number of different ways both indoors and outdoors, so altering the experience and interpretation of the artwork; with a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan Jones.

A number of smaller art installations will run alongside the moon inside Sherborne Abbey. "Dorset Moon has presented a wonderful opportunity to commission new work from homegrown artists that will bring exciting new cultural experiences for residents and visitors alike," says Kate Wood, Executive & Artistic Director of Inside Out Dorset, curators of Dorset Moon in collaboration with Bournemouth Arts By the Sea and b-side.

On Saturday evening visitors are invited to be uplifted with a concert under the moon '*The Seven Stars*', featuring the voices of Sherborne Abbey Choir; directed by Paul Ellis with organists Peter Bray, Kentaro Machida and David Bednall, in Sherborne Abbey on Saturday 6th July at 7.30pm. The programme includes

favourites from the choir's 2019 repertoire, along with pieces chosen especially for Dorset Moon, including Jonathan Doves' *Seek him that maketh the seven stars*, Adam's *O holy night* and Rutter *This is the day*. The choir will also give a second performance of the anthem *Praise the Lord, O my soul* by David Bednall, commissioned by Sherborne Abbey Festival and premiered at this year's Festival. Entry is free, with a retiring collection.

Sherborne itself offers a town-full of activities to celebrate the event. The whole community, along with churches, schools, businesses, shops and organisations has come together to create a series of events including Space Detectives workshops for children, 'Under the Moon' town walks with a Blue Badge Guide, school competitions and shop window displays to complement the official Dorset Moon programme.

There is also an opportunity to meet Andrew Smith, author of the international bestseller *Moondust: In Search of the Men Who Fell to Earth* and the BBC documentary *Being Neil Armstrong* at the Digby Memorial Hall at 7pm on Friday 5th July (tickets available at Sherborne TIC, £10). The evening will combine lively conversation and Smith's dramatic reading of his account of the first landing, with music and recently-uncovered film footage from a camera behind Buzz Aldrin's head as the lunar module descended.

Entry to Dorset Moon is FREE and Sherborne Abbey opens every day at 8am, with the official Moon Programme taking place from midday to midnight, last entry at 11.30pm. Visitors are warmly welcomed to join in the regular liturgical services taking place in the Abbey over the three days (under the watchful gaze of the moon), times of services are available online. Please note, the Abbey is closed for a private wedding from 2-4pm on Saturday 6th July.

After Sherborne Abbey, Dorset Moon heads to its third and final location at the Nothe Fort, Weymouth (12th-14th July).

Find out more and plan your visit at Sherborne Tourist Information Office in Digby Road

The official Dorset Moon website is www.dorsetmoon.com/sherborne

For times of services visit Sherborne Abbey at www.sherborneabbey.com

For the full What's On listing visit www.sherborneabbeyfestival.org/dorset-moon-lands-in-sherborne

For further press information and official photographs after the event contact Liz Murray (on behalf of Sherborne Abbey) t:07795 298781 | e: lizmurraymarketing@gmail.com