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21 February 2019

To: Gillian McFarland and Ione Parkin

From: Andrew Eaton-Lewis, Hebridean Dark Skies Festival co-ordinator, An Lanntair.

Dear Gillian and Ione,

I'm writing to say how delighted we were to have you as guests at our first Hebridean Dark Skies Festival this month, along with your astronomer colleague Amaury Triaud. It was fascinating to hear about the Creativity and Curiosity project and to see some of the beautiful, evocative work you've created. It very much summed up the spirit of a festival which is very much about finding interesting meeting points between the arts and astronomy.

I was pleased to hear your own observation that it was unusual for your project to be showcased in an arts centre rather than in a more scientific context. This is something that a few people have picked up on – the only events I can think of that are similar to ours are Edinburgh International Science Festival (which as you'd expect is mostly focused on science but with some arts content) and Bluedot, which is obviously held at Jodrell Bank Observatory. It seems to be quite unusual for an arts venue to be programming this kind of festival, and we are quietly proud of that.

Anyway, I'm very much looking forward to welcoming you back to our second festival next February for an exhibition and a programme of events to accompany it. I think there is potential here for all kinds of interesting meetings of minds, and that the presence of the exhibition might well help shape the rest of the programme – I already have a couple of ideas in mind for events that would bring together artists and astronomers in the way that your own project has.

It's exciting to hear about your other plans for the project too, and I wish you the best of luck with all of these. I hope that this letter will be of some help in persuading others to support or host Creativity and Curiosity.

Best wishes,
Andrew Eaton-Lewis
An Lanntair

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