

Creating a Mathematics Touring Exhibition

MathsWorldUK wants to enhance the public understanding of mathematics and its applications by creating an interactive touring exhibition devoted entirely to mathematical ideas. We have recently been made a very generous offer from an American donor to help us achieve this aim. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has promised to match pound for pound any funding we can raise in the year to January 2019, up to £125 000. We are keen to take advantage of this amazing opportunity and are thus approaching individuals, philanthropic and professional organizations, and industry to help achieve this target and get the exhibition on the road as soon as possible.

The touring exhibition will contain around 20 interactive exhibits, mainly hands-on with some digital ones as well. It will tour science centres and museums/galleries around the United Kingdom; several have already shown interest in hosting it. The exhibition will be aimed at families and school



groups, but also at people of all ages and backgrounds. It will engage visitors in playing with activities, puzzles and mathematical ideas, and will illustrate the importance of mathematics to different aspects of life and culture.

We hope that the exhibition will bring added dimensions to mathematics that are not

normally experienced in the classroom and to help remove the negative attitudes towards mathematics that often prevail in the UK. We will engage people in the fun, the fascination, and the human-interest stories behind mathematics and its applications, and with why it is so important in solving essential problems associated with the preservation of our planet and the continuing quality of life here on Earth. We also wish to illustrate its fundamental role in helping us understand the natural world from subatomic particles that compose the material universe, to the far outer reaches of that universe.

To plan for and develop this touring exhibition will require research and development - from conception to completion of final exhibit items - and hence money to pay for staff time and the construction of the exhibits. Up to now we have commissioned several exhibits, which have been very successful at science festivals (see the photos). We have developed strong links with mathematics museums and visitor centres overseas. The touring exhibition

will be the next step on the way to the eventual establishment of our



Mathematics Discovery Centre, the first interactive museum of mathematics in the United Kingdom. Already there are over fifty such mathematics museums around the world, all outside the UK.

We would be very grateful for your generous support in achieving our target.

Further details of MathsWorldUK can be found on our website:

<http://www.mathsworlduk.com>

You can donate directly from our website which earns an additional 25% from the UK Government in Gift Aid.

Or you can send a cheque made out to MathsWorldUK and addressed to Professor Margaret Brown, 34 Girdwood Road, London SW18 5QS.

Please be generous in your support and pass this appeal onto others whom you think might wish to do the same.

We will acknowledge all donors (unless they wish to remain anonymous), and corporate donors will have their logos prominently displayed on our website.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Professor Margaret Brown.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Geoffrey Wain.

Professor Margaret Brown, OBE and Geoffrey Wain, CoChairs of MathsWorldUK

Some feedback: Meeting a Need

- Quote from organizer of Norwich Science Festival (where MathsWorldUK had 10 volunteers and a large exhibit area in the city Forum over the weekend of October 21st/22nd 2017, with a footfall of c.16 000):
"...a HUGE thank you from all of us for joining us at the Festival this year. Your stand and activities were so engaging and popular, and really enhanced our offering that weekend. It was wonderful to see people from all generations engage ... "
- *"This is the best thing in the whole show"* – visitor at the MathsWorldUK stalls at The Big Bang Festival of Science in Birmingham, 2015

Visitor Quotes to the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) in New York:

"...the excitement it makes me feel when I go there, the fun hours I have spent at MoMath, the amazing activities... you learn so much... MoMath could make even the most reluctant child love math. I hope someday there is a MoMath in every city, every country, in the world." - Girl, age 11



"There was something for everyone to get into. From the toddlers to adults, not one person looked bored." -Parent

"The students had an amazing time ... [T]hey explored the museum and learned so much about a variety of math topics from the amazing hands on exhibits. The experience truly was one of a kind. There is no other place where math seems to come alive for kids." – Inner city teacher

"[T]hey were a little hesitant when they heard "Math" museum... Well, they were pleasantly surprised to see hands-on math at the museum. It wasn't hard, it wasn't boring! It opened their eyes. Your free trip provided my kids with a great learning experience which they talked about the whole year." -Teacher of low attaining group