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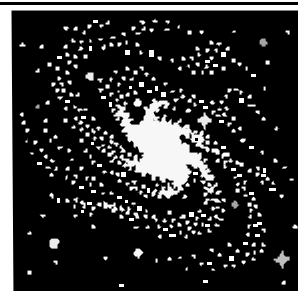
FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

<http://www.fedastro.org.uk>



FAS CONVENTION 2001

Life In Our Universe



Featuring

Life: A Universal Perspective

Professor Richard Dawkins, Charles Simonyi Professor at Oxford University

The Creation of the Elements Necessary for Life: From the Big Bang to Galaxies

Professor Joseph Silk, Head of Astrophysics, Oxford University

Habitats: Planets and Life Beyond the Solar System.

Dr Barrie Jones, Head of Astronomy & Physics at The Open University

The Search for Life: Past Work and Future Prospects.

Dr Alan Penny, Astrophysics Division, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Also

Tours of RAL Facilities,
Trade Stands,
Society Displays

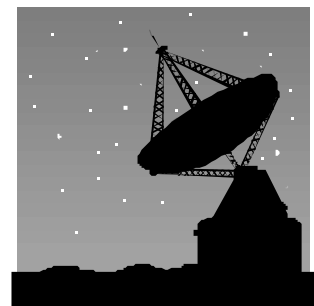
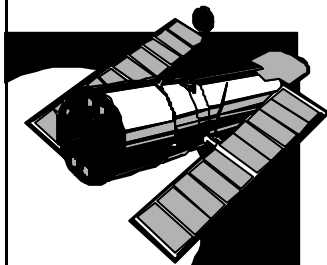
And the FAS Annual General Meeting

Lunches available at the RAL Restaurant

(directions to RAL and Convention Programme inside)

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot

SATURDAY OCTOBER 13th 2001 - DOORS OPEN 9.00



FAS Annual Convention - Saturday October 13th 2001

Programme

Conference theme: Life in our Universe

- 08.00 Doors Open for Traders
- 09.00 Doors Open to Public
- 10.00 Welcome from FAS President - Malcolm Jones
- 10.05 Talk about RAL by Staff member
- 10.35 AGM
- 11.05 Coffee/tea break
- 11.30 The creation of the elements necessary for life: From the Big Bang to Galaxies - Professor Joseph Silk, Head of Astrophysics, Oxford University
- 12.30 Lunch and 1st Tour of RAL
- 13.15 Lunch and 2nd Tour of RAL
- 14.00 Life: a Universal Perspective - Professor Richard Dawkins, Charles Simonyi Professor at Oxford University
- 15.00 Coffee/tea break
- 15.30 Habitats: Planets and Life Beyond the Solar System. Dr Barrie Jones, Head of Astronomy & Physics at The Open University
- 16.30 Break
- 16.40 The search for life: past work and future prospects - Dr Alan Penny, Astrophysics Division, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
- 17.40 Closing Address
- 18.00 Conference ends

(Programme may be subject to change.)

Tours of RAL

There are two tours organised during the lunch break. No pre-booking of the tours is necessary.

Tradestands from:

Earth & Sky
Venture Scopes
Virtual Star Ltd,
Astronomy Now.

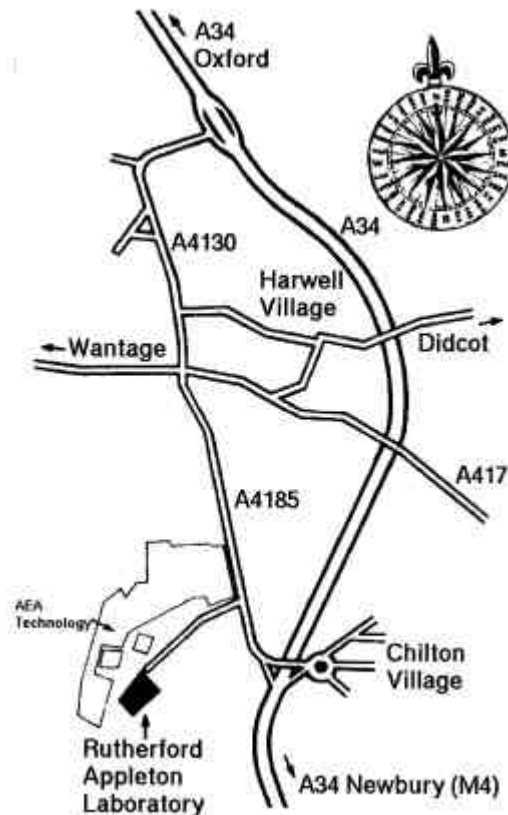
TICKETS

Tickets at the door will be £6.00 each.
Advance tickets available Price £5.00 each
from
Dave Sutton
10, The Martlets, Sompting, West Sussex,
BN15 9SS
please send an SAE

THE 2001 FAS ANNUAL CONVENTION
IS SPONSORED BY

ASTRONOMY NOW

Directions to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory



Rutherford Appleton Laboratory,
Chilton, Didcot, Oxon, UK, OX11 0QX
<http://www.clrc.ac.uk>

By Road.

From the A34 (northbound)

Take the A4185 (A417) exit, signposted for Rutherford Laboratory and Wantage. Turn left onto the A4185 and RAL is on the left approximately half a mile from the exit.

From the A34 (southbound)

Take the A4130 (A417) exit signposted Milton, Chilton, Didcot and Wantage. At the roundabout take the fourth exit signposted A4130 Wantage, Steventon, Drayton, Harwell. Follow this road for one and a half miles and continue straight on at the Rowstock roundabout onto the A4185. RAL is two miles along this road on the right.

By Rail.

RAL is six miles south-west of Didcot Parkway station, less than 60 minutes journey from London Paddington. Didcot also provides connections to Birmingham, the West of England and South Wales. Taxis are available from the station.

Starry Night Pro - A Review

By Ian Coulson



Guildsoft Ltd have produced a range of three Starry Night products; Beginner, Backyard and Pro, retailing at £29.95, £49.95 and £99.95 respectively.

Starry Night Pro is the product under review and comes with a long list of extra facilities compared with its cheaper siblings. Therefore I shall concentrate more on these extra facilities in order to gauge value for money: £100 is a lot of money to part with for a piece of software, especially in today's competitive environment.

Basics are good. It installs well with sensible options depending on how much hard disk space you want to use up. The database of stars is huge - 19 million with the Pro- which at high resolution makes for a stunning visual treat; it's almost like being on top of Mauna Kea in Hawaii (in fact, with the 'anywhere on Earth' feature you can be there).

There are two softback publications in the box, one of which is a very readable guide to the night sky. It's mostly text with a few illustrations, aimed at users with a sensible level of intelligence. It positively encourages you to venture out and have a look at the night sky for yourself, and would be a good book to have handy for cloudy nights when planning the next observing session.

The other book is the concise but easy-to-follow User's Guide. Although it doesn't go into minute detail of how to do things, it follows a sensible order and introduces you gradually to the more expert functions; it's complemented by the on-line 'Help' button. Right from the off it takes you into the meat of the program; how to set your location, register your copy (of course) and where to get updates.

All this is great, but what about the features?

Visually, as I've already hinted, the presentation is very effective, even on the screen of my little notebook. On something larger with higher resolution you can easily imagine that you're looking at a real sky. One of the screen modes allows you to get most of the icons and stuff out of the way and concentrate on the stars themselves. Zooming in to the Orion Nebula, for example, produces an effect almost like a good astrophoto. When I zoomed in on the Pleiades I discovered there was a comet called Schaumasse 24P (mag. 11.58) passing through the region. Needless to say it was cloudy outside so I couldn't see if it really was there!

Talking of comets, one of the advanced features in this version of Starry Night is an on-line update of comets, asteroids and satellites. Space.com (their website) keeps updated copies of the orbital elements in downloadable form so you can always stay abreast of the latest discoveries.

If you have your own astro images it's possible to add these or replace existing ones of, say, Messier objects. One example is the Horsehead Nebula; there isn't a picture of this in the supplied library of images, but it can be downloaded from the Digital Sky Survey using the built-in tool or you can use the Image Editor to add your own, or somebody else's, version. It's possible, using this tool, to align the new image to the existing sky background and scale it, rotate or flip it until it's just right. Then it becomes a seamless integration which you can zoom into or out of just as with the supplied images.

Okay, what happens if you want to move the program to another computer? Well it doesn't automatically save your additions because it comes on a CD-ROM. You can, however, access your stored data because the manual tells you all the file names and where to find them. You can then save them to disk and overwrite their counterparts once you've completed the installation on the new machine.

Editing the horizon is straightforward and allows you to delete all those annoying large trees that block the view in real life - if only it was really so simple! Seriously though, I used the horizon editor to mimic the real horizon outside my cottage so I won't waste my time looking for things I know it's impossible to see from here. I could also add clouds or remove them from the daytime sky with a couple of mouse clicks; very frustrating when it's raining buckets outside the window and nothing will shift the clouds! You can of course turn the horizon off completely for an unobstructed view in all directions, or select it to cut off at the point corresponding to your Latitude (or the point below which it's hard to see anything due to atmospheric and light pollution).

To change the viewing time is simple and logical; click on the current time symbol and open up a small window which controls the speed and direction of the flow of time. Jump to any time in the past or future, scroll forwards or backwards at any speed from there, select the time increments so you can watch the moon moving through the constellations, or Mars in forward then retrograde motion for example.

For me though, the best bit is changing your point of view. When you choose to go to Jupiter, for example, and view the sky from there, the program takes you up above the Earth, aligns you in the right direction, and the you fly off to your destination, passing the moon if it happens to be on the way, or Mars if it's there, to land in the exact same location (latitude and longitude) on Jupiter that you just left on Earth, looking at the same bit of sky. From there, you can move round to look at Earth (it looks very, very small from there I can tell you!) or maybe Saturn, which of course is bigger than it is here. If you choose to go to a star, Tau Tauri for instance, when you turn back to look at Earth all the Constellation lines (if selected) will look completely different as a lot of them are simply line-of-sight effects. The view, in fact, is like looking down a tunnel made out of string!

There are many more features such as importing and exporting data, printing star charts, a dynamic Hertzsprung-Russell diagram and a Meade telescope interface - some I tried and some I didn't or couldn't - and they all seem easy to use and pretty foolproof. Starry Night Pro, then, is a very complete astronomy package offering facilities for beginners and more experienced astronomers as well as computer junkies. For someone who wants a useful tool to last them for many years as they grow in experience and ability, I think this has a lot to recommend it.

Wolverhampton Astronomical Society 50th Anniversary Convention

The day got off to a good start. The people wanting trade stands were there bright and early and what a wealth of books, software and art was on display!

The first members of our audience arrived as the doors opened, having travelled from Bradford, Bristol, Shrewsbury, Birmingham and Lancaster were also amongst the many Astronomical Societies represented. Those who were not members of societies were encouraged to join, and there was a great exchange of 'phone numbers and E-mail addresses.

The President was pleased to greet the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Tersaim Singh, who arrived promptly at 11 a.m. The members of our council were introduced to him, then he delighted us by going on walkabout and talking to our visitors.



Photo, Mike Bryce

The Introduction to the day was given by Barbara Russell, the President of Wolverhampton Astronomical Society, who welcomed the Mayor, the speakers and the audience. Apologies were received from Sir Patrick Moore and Professor Barocas, the Honorary President of the Society. Both were prevented by ill-health from attending.

Barbara paid special tribute to Dr John Cooper, who had been instrumental in arranging the venue, the prestigious Wolverhampton Science Park. She said that the courtesy and co-operation that the Society had received from all the staff at the Park had made their tasks much easier.

The pupils of S. Peter's School, Wolverhampton, had arranged an exhibition of their Science Club's work and the President said how much WAS had enjoyed the links with the school.

Barbara reminded the audience that events like this did not happen spontaneously, and neither do societies like the WAS. The groundwork had been laid over the fifty years by Malcolm Astley, Roy Bagley, Neville Goodger, David Harris and Maurice Perry, who, between them had provided a strong nucleus that attracted other good council members.

We know, she said, we have a hard act to follow, but with our Secretary Mike Bryce, 'master-mind' behind today's event, Vice President Phil Barnard, Treasurer John Smith, Mike Gallear, and the rest of the team we look forward to a bright future.

The President introduced the first speaker – Dr Philip Diamond. Dr Diamond is based at Jodrell Bank, where he is the Director of MERLIN, a network of radio linked telescopes with a base line of some 140 kilometres stretching down the Wales/England border. It was, however, about his present project that he spoke 'Making Movies of Stars'.

This was done in association with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in New Mexico. Dr Diamond first detailed what ex-

actly astronomers were looking for - more information of how stars other than the Sun behave in the short term. This was followed by an explanation of methods used and problems that had to be overcome. The whole talk was extensively illustrated by images, and, saving the best till last, a 'movie' of gas being ejected from a star. This, said Dr Diamond, was just the starting point, as every new answer presented several more questions. Questions, too, came from the audience, which Dr Diamond was pleased to answer. The President thanked Dr Diamond for his interesting and informative talk and a 'movie' better than anything Hollywood could produce.

After a break for luncheon, Barbara had a particularly warm welcome for Professor Ian Robson, whom she and the Society had known for many years through the help he had given to the Society at their Preston Astronomy Weekends. Professor Robson is the Director of the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope and the Joint Astronomy Centre in Hawaii.

Professor Robson's talk was entitled 'The SCUBA revolution' and focussed on the importance of the relatively new technique of using a wavelength band between 0.3 and 1mm to study electromagnetic radiation of celestial bodies. These wavelengths are particularly important for detecting areas of star formation and spectral lines of molecules in interstellar gases. This region of the spectrum requires input from both radio and infrared astronomy. And since water vapour absorbs at these wavelengths, high and dry places are necessary for the location of instruments. Mauna Kea is ideal!

Ian's talk was lavishly illustrated, not only with pictures for our instruction but with scenes showing the hazards of working at high altitudes. He was happy to answer the questions from the audience, after which Barbara thanked him for his invaluable contribution to our Convention.

After a break, we were delighted to welcome Dr Patrick Roche, from Oxford, where he is a Tutorial Fellow at Hertford College. He is also the UK *Gemini Project* Scientist and it was of this Project that he spoke.

This is a fairly new project, which is achieving astounding results. As the name suggests, there are twin telescopes, 8.1m in diameter, one sited Mauna Kea, Hawaii, and the other at Cerro Pachon in Chile. These twins cover the entire sky and new technologies ensure that astronomers now get some of the clearest and sharpest views of the Universe to date. The images that Dr Roche used to illustrate his talk were breath-taking. We were used to good pictures from the Hubble Space Telescope but these improved even on those. There were questions ably answered by Dr Roche and then received thanks from Barbara for a mind-blowing presentation.

The final talk, given after a short break, was 'The Liverpool Telescope' by Dr Andrew Newsam. Dr Newsam started his career as a computational physicist, but got hooked on observational astronomy, something for which all future amateur astronomers will be grateful. Dr Newsam first took us through the building of the Liverpool Telescope which, living up to its name was conceived and built in Liverpool. It is the first of a new breed of fully robotic telescopes, which will be able to study the Universe and its changes through days weeks and years. As the 'scope has virtually no human component, its housing and maintenance, and therefore cost, will be considerably lower. But, said Dr Newsam, that is not the only good news; at least 5% of telescope time will be dedicated to use by schoolchildren, plus amateurs, thus bringing the wonders of astronomy more to the notice of the public. There were quite a few questions, mostly when? and how? to which Dr Newsam said keep an eye on the websites he would supply. The President thanked Dr Newsam for his most heartening talk; she said that catching the public's attention and then being able to offer them something interesting to do was vital to keeping amateur astron-

up and running.

The Society's Vice President, Mr Philip Barnard, gave the final vote of thanks, to the Mayor, the speakers, the Director and Staff of the Science Park, especially Mark Hedges, Technician; to S. Peter's School, especially Mrs Carol Thomas, their Technical Manager; to the people who had taken trade stands and donated prizes for the raffle and to the President (The Mrs. Thatcher of Astronomy!)

He expressed the Society's thanks to the audience, who, he said, with their warm appreciation of the days events had added a special touch to the day. The President publicly thanked the members of the Council, saying that the teamwork under the direction of Mike Bryce had brought the day into being.

The raffle was drawn then, on behalf of the Society Barbara said 'Goodbye and Godspeed' to the audience.



Photo, Mike Bryce

Lecturers at the Convention were (from left): Dr Andrew Newsam, Dr Patrick Roche, Professor Ian Robson and , inset, Dr Philip Diamond.

South West Astro Camp

The South West Astronomical Association is organising an Astro Camp at Torquay Boys Grammar School. The event is sponsored by SCS Astro Ltd.

The camp will take place from Friday 17th August to Sunday 19th August. Weather permitting there will be observing sessions on the Friday and Saturday nights. It is expected that a range of telescopes will be available for visitors to look through, including the school's 14" Newtonian Reflector. Solar observing is likely to be an attraction as well.

The SWAA hope to have a number of events, speakers and displays running at the same time.

Visitors can either come for the day or camp out in the school grounds. Cost of a camping pitch is £2.00 per night. The school has extensive shower and toilet facilities on site.

If you are intending to camp out we recommend that you book in advance. Bookings can be made through Graham Veale of Torquay Astronomical Society, telephone 01626 360365.

We welcome any traders who might wish to have a stand. Please contact Kieron McGrath at SCS Astro Ltd for details. Local societies who would like to display their wares will also be very welcome.

Full details of the event can be found on the SWAA Web Site at:

<http://www.halien.com/SWAA/index.htm>

LEEDS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ASTROMEET 2001

SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2001

CENTENARY HOUSE , NORTH STREET,
LEEDS

Time: 9am (Doors Open) for a 10.30am start.

Admission: £5 on the door (no advance tickets required).

The list of Guest Speakers (and lecture topics) is as follows:-

Dr Monica Grady - "Meteorites and Mars"
(Natural History Museum)

Dr Allan Chapman - "Thomas William Webb and the
Popularisation of Amateur
Astronomy"

Dr Andrew Elliott - "Video Astronomy"
(BAA Medal Winner 2000)

Dr Andrew Hollis - "Near Earth Asteroids and the
Earth"
(BAA Director of Asteroids and Remote Planets Section)

Professor John Parkinson - "11th August 1999 – A Side
ways Look Back At Britains's
Eclipse"

Please note that Trade Stands are free and Refreshments will be available during the day.

A limited amount of car parking is available at Centenary House itself, but several Official Car Parks are located nearby.

Visit the Society's Website at WWW.ASTRO.LEEDS.CO.UK where a map of how to get to Centenary House is provided.

(ALL ARE MADE MOST WELCOME AND JUDGING FROM THE OUTSTANDING SUCCESS ENJOYED OVER PREVIOUS YEARS, IS A HIGHLY ENJOYABLE DAY OUT – DO COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES)

Mid-Kent Astronomical Society 25th Anniversary Meeting

Saturday 15th September at Temple School Hall in Strood, Kent.
Tickets will be £2.50 adults and £1.25 children. Starts 11.00am.
Speakers booked are:

Owen Brazell, Deep Sky Objects.
Alan Drummond. TBC.
Conrad Malin-Smyth, The Eclipse of 21st June.

There will Meteorites on display, videos, Solar Observing, telescope and astronomy displays and Ask the Astronomer, plus other events to follow. Contact Amanda Peters on 01634 308035 for further details.

www.manmedicineandspace.co.uk

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SWAA * : :
x



South-West
Astronomical
Association

The South West
Astronomical
Association
Are hosting

2001 Astro-Camp

At

Torquay Boys Grammar School

17th-19th August

Sponsored by SCS Astro
Wellington, Somerset

For further details

Contact John Parratt, 01271 372331
e-mail john@astro3.freemove.co.uk

Or

Dave Norman, 01808 200965
e-mail dgn@halien.net

Loughton Astronomical Society

THE 7th EQUINOX SKYCAMP
Sponsored by
Broadhurst, Clarkson & Fuller. London

**Friday 14th September to
Sunday 23rd September 2001**

Venue: DOWER HOUSE TOURING PARK,
EAST HARLING, THETFORD, NORFOLK.
ENGLAND NR16 2SE Tel: 01953 717 314

Main Event Day: Saturday 15th September

Guest Speakers Confirmed: Events during the day:

Dr Stuart Clark - TBA **Astro Boot Sale**
Bob Mizon - Dark Skies **Telescope Tours**
Ken Harrison - TBA **Prize Raffle**
 Evening Bar-B-Q

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the Sky Camp, you are strongly advised to pre-book pitches in advance to avoid disappointment.

Prebook £7.50 per night, On Day £8.00 per night
If prebook, minimum stay 2 nights, please quote reference number DC7 when booking.
All booking enquiries should be made directly to the Dower House.

For full details send an A5 SAE to
MIKE COOK, 2 SUNSET DRIVE, BROXHILL ROAD,
HAVERING-ATTE-BOWER, ESSEX, ENGLAND, RM4 1QL
TEL:- 01708 375 146 or 07981 832 827

(All Enquiries must reach above address by last post 8th Sept 2001)

The Dower House Touring Park is a well proven dark site for astronomy in the north of Norfolk, approximately 8 miles from Thetford.

Loughton Astronomical Society, at the Dower House, cannot guarantee a pitch if you arrive on the day without pre-booking.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

LOUGHTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

SKY CAMP MAIN EVENT DAY

12.00 SATURDAY 15th SEP 2001
ON SITE BAR & RESTAURANT OPEN ALL DAY

3 LECTURES WILL BE GIVEN IN THE AFTERNOON
STUART CLARK, BOB MIZON AND KEN HARRISON
ALL FOR £2.50 (TICKETS AVAILABLE ON SITE)

TRADE STANDS, PLUS AN ASTRO BOOT SALE
FOR YOU TO PICK UP, OR SELL, A BARGAIN

GUIDED TOURS OF THE TELESCOPE FIELD TO SHOW THE MANY INSTRUMENTS BEING USED

TELESCOPE TUITION FOR BEGINNERS, FIND OUT WHICH END TO LOOK THROUGH

IN THE EVE, WE WILL HAVE THE PRIZE RAFFLE
(FIRST PRIZE DONATED BY BC&F)
AND THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY BAR-B-Q

SO IF YOU CANNOT STAY AT THE CAMP FOR THE WEEK OR WEEKEND, WHY NOT COME ALONG AND BRING THE FAMILY JUST FOR THE MAIN EVENT DAY

CHARGE £2.00, UNDER 16s FREE

SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP

AYLESBURY AS

Meetings on the 1st Monday of the month in the Aylesbury area. Further details from Alan Smith, 182 Marley Fields, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 8WN, Tel. 01525 374258

BRADFORD AS

Lectures held at Eccleshill Library, Bradford at 7.30 pm. For details call 01274 573210 or 01274 672570, or see website at www.bradford-astro.freeserve.co.uk/index.htm

30th July, Quiz

13th August, Members Night/Video

10th September, Practical Evening, Star Charts

24th September, The Liverpool Robotic Telescope, Andrew Newsam

8th October, Calendars of the Beaker Folk, Bob Lomas.

22nd October, Making Planets, Prof. Mike Woolfson

CARDIFF AS

Meetings alternate Thursdays, September to July, 7.30 pm. at Dept of Physics and Astronomy, Univ. of Wales, 5 The Parade, Newport Road, Cardiff.

Contact David Powell (secretary), 029 2055 1704. Email CAS@ilddat.demon.co.uk.

Web site: http://carina.astro.cf.ac.uk/cas/cas_home.html

6th Sept. Bombardment of the Earth

Dr David Hughes, Sheffield University.

20th Sept. Nicholas Copernicus

Allan Chapman, Oxford University.

4th Oct The Earliest Galaxies Prof.

Mike Edmunds, University of Wales College Cardiff

18th October How to Make Astronomical Discoveries

Prof. Mike Disney, University of Wales College Cardiff

CENTRAL SIDEWALK ASTRONOMERS

Midlands Star Party, August 10/11. Venue King George V Playing Fields, a large public park off Stafford Road, just north of Bloxwich town centre on the A34. Bloxwich is located on the A34 between Cannock, Staffordshire and Walsall, West Midlands, England, and is easily accessible via the M6 motorway or the A5/A34. Contact by email to Stuart Williams at: csa@urania.plus.com or by Snail Mail to: Stuart Williams, Central Sidewalk Astronomers, 26 Matlock Road, Walsall, WS3 3QD.

COTSWOLD AS

Meetings 2nd Saturday of the month. New Venue Shurdington Church Hall, Shurdington, Cheltenham. Contact Duncan Willoughby 01452 416405.

14th July, Deep Sky Exotica, Nick Hewitt BAA President.

11th August, Members Talks

8th September, TBA

HANNEY AND DISTRICT AS

All these lectures will be held at 8.00pm, in the Hanney Memorial Hall. Contact Sue Connell, Secretary, 01235 766688

27 September, Allan Dowdell, Deep Sky Observing

25 October, Dr Sarah Dunkin, Mercury – The Enigmatic Planet

29 November, Bob Dryden, Asteroids and their effect on Earth

JAVEA AND DISTRICT AS

The society meet at the Campo de Tiro, Cabo San Antonio, Javea, on the third Thursday of each month. We have just had our April meeting where we started off with a quiz until it got dark. We then went outside for the stargazing part of the evening but unfortunately it had become quite cloudy so this had to be curtailed. We hope for better luck next month when we are having a "Mars" night with a local Spanish group.

LA SOCIÉTÉ GUERNESAISE—ASTRONOMY SECTION

Meets every Tuesday evening and Friday if clear for observing at the observatory, Rue du Lorier, St. Peters, Guernsey. Tel 264252.

Web site: www.astronomy.org.gg

10th August, BBQ & Perseids Meteor Count

18th September, Telescope Clinic

16th October, Public Open Evening

LEEDS AS

Contact Ray Emery (r.emery@westview.leeds.co.uk) or new President Mark Simpson, 37 Roper Avenue, Leeds, LS8 1LG. Main Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm, at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds.

Web site: <http://www.astro.leeds.co.uk>

8th August - The Sunward World (The observation of the Inner Planets) -

Mr. Robert Steele, Director of BAA Mercury and Venus section.

12th September - Dark Matter the Stuff of the Universe - Dr.

Susan Cartwright, University of Sheffield

10th October - Scientific Applications of the Global Positioning System - Professor Alan Dodson, Director of The Institute of Engineering, Surveying & Space Geodesy, University of Nottingham

Also LEEDS ASTROMEET 2001, Saturday 10th November

LIVERPOOL AS

No monthly meetings between June and August. Next monthly meeting is 21st September, the 120th Presidential Address, at Crypt Concert Room, RC Cathedral, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

Contact Ken Clarke, tel. 0151-638-3270. Weekly meetings continue at the Pex Hill Observatory, contact Geoff Regan, 0151-292-7165. LAS Sidewalk Astronomers next meet on 1st August at Kirby Library, Knowsley, contact Dave Owen, 07778-454524.

[Http://www.liv.ac.uk/~ggastro/home.html](http://www.liv.ac.uk/~ggastro/home.html)

MID KENT AS

Meetings held second and last Friday of the month at Riverside Country Park, Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, at 8.00pm.

Contact Amanda Peters on 01634 308035 (evenings).

27th July, Paul Hewitt, Extra Solar Planets

12th August, Solar observing at Riverside Country Park, 11am to 5 pm.

14th September, David Whitehouse, The Moon

15th September, MKAS 25th Anniversary event at Temple School, Strood.

28th September, Pete Parish, Constellation of the month

12th October, AGM

16th October, Public Open Evening

NORTH EAST LONDON AS

Meetings normally held on the third Sunday of the month (excluding August), between 3pm and 6pm, in the Park Room, Wanstead House, 21, The Green, Wanstead, London E11. Contact Bernard Beeston, 020-8363-5696.

September, John Fisher

November, Dr. Mike Leggett

NORTH ESSEX AS

Meetings are held at the BT Social Club Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham, Essex. The Doors open at 19:30hrs for the talk to start at 20:00hrs on third Thursday of every month except August and December.

19 July, Gary Cavie - 2001 A Space Odyssey.

20 September, Dave Eagle - Computers in Astronomy

SALFORD AS

The society is currently in its summer season of informal meetings at the Observatory in Chasely Field, Chasely Road, Salford.

Contact Kath Redford, 2 Albemarle Road, Swinton, Manchester, M27 5ST. Tel 0161 794 3179

E-mail: salfordac@ast.man.ac.uk

Web site: <http://www.salfordastro.org.uk>

WOLVERHAMPTON AS

Contact secretary, Mike Bryce, 01562-742850, email secretary@wolvas.org.uk.

Meets alternate Mondays at 7.30pm between September and April with two additional meetings in May and June, at Beckminster Methodist Church Hall, Birches Barn Road, Wolverhampton.

17th September, Dr. Barrie Jones (Open University), Planets and Life beyond our Solar System.

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Contact the Editor for details.

Membership Changes

Remember to send society contact changes to the
Membership Secretary, Eric Hutton (see above).

Deadline for submission for next newsletter, 30th September 2001

Please remember to send ALL articles to the Editor,
Callum Potter. Regrettably material can only be returned if supplied with a SAE.

This edition of the Newsletter went to press a few days
in advance of the deadline - apologies to anyone who
missed out on inclusion. This was necessary to avoid a
significant increase in postal distribution costs.