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FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

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The 'Other' Liverpool Telescope The 30 inch TROK Telescope

The TROK (Thompson, Regan, Owen, King) 30 telescope was complete by May 2002 but it had only been tested at Dave Thomson's house in Great Sutton. The views were infinitely better than in the original TRO 30 scope but we wanted to test it at a dark site

A trip to Brenig Reservoir dark sky site in August was clouded out. But on September 6th a clearance in weather satellite photos was seen that might justify another trip out to Wales. The weather looked pretty doubtful, and it was a Friday evening, so big crowds were not expected at the Brenig site. We had the place to ourselves, but we also had persistent drizzle! The weather did clear for a while but not long enough to justify setting up the Telescope completely. We decided to move a few miles so as to gain about 400 feet in altitude and to move away from the Lake area and trees. It seemed as if the clouds were forming local to our area. Again, we began to set up the scope, but the weather closed in again!!

On the verge of giving up, Geoff Regan then suggested going back to a lay-by we had used in 1998 to test the TRO 30 scope for the first time. This was between Mold and Denbigh so there was a chance that the weather might be better, and it certainly was. Although we had a restricted horizon, there was a fairly clear view to the South, West and North East. We were set up and ready to go in about 20 minutes and the first object we looked at was M13. Low down but very impressive with a 40-mm eyepiece (114x). Geoff com-

mented that he had never had such a clear view of the three dark lanes that form a conspicuous Y shape, slightly off centre, and this was well before the mirror had cooled down. We turned on the fans at the front and rear of the mirror to improve the view. The images did improve a lot after a short while as the mirror cooled down and stabilised.

The next object we tried was M27, the Dumbell Nebula. Dave Thomson had recently acquired a UHC filter that showed an impressive amount of detail that I had never seen before. The object was very bright and the extent of the nebulosity was incredible. Next was M71 the loose globular cluster in Sagitta. Although it was fairly well resolved at 114x, I could still see a granular nebulosity in the background that I am sure would have dissolved into stars with a slightly higher power. The Ring Nebula, M57 was very bright. Dave said he could see nebulosity surrounding the outer ring also. But by now it was getting low down in the NW. We said we had best look out for the central star. This would need more power to darken the sky even more and provide better contrast between the central nebulosity and the star. But in the rush to see more objects, we forgot!

The Veil Nebula has a bright patch near the naked eye star 52 Cygni. We aimed the scope using its 10x50 finder (We were too busy observing to attach the 6-inch f4 finder or the Telrad pointer). The UHC filter revealed a lot of subtle detail that is not normally visible in this object. Dave Thomson said it was much brighter than he had ever seen it before, and we were using 250X magnification! It looked like a twisting strand of DNA stretching



John Dobson admiring the TROK 30 telescope at Pex Hill

(Continued on page 2)

across the field of view. The nebula could be followed a long way, but we decided to move onto the next object in case the weather closed in. We then tried looking at the galaxies M81 and M82. M82, to me, was very impressive at 114x. At 180x it was even more spectacular. We could see lots of detail in the dark lanes at the centre of this unusual galaxy.

The Crab Nebula, M1, seemed strangely subdued to my eyes, compared to the view in the original TRO 30. I later learned that Dave Thomson had forgotten to remove the UHC filter from the eyepiece mount!! This had obviously reduced the brightness by a few magnitudes. M1 is a continuous emission nebula so a UHC reduces it brightness and not enhances it. Dave Thomson could see the filaments in the structure of M1 and commented that it was very bright. We will have more time on the next trip to get a better view of this object.

NGC 2158, the rich star cluster on the edge of the more famous cluster M35 was nearby so we gave this object a try. The brightest stars in this cluster are about magnitude 14 so this cluster is usually quite difficult to resolve with smaller scopes. No problem with this one though!

We finished off the night with a long look at Saturn. The planet looked wonderful in the newly constructed Telescope. At 250X the amount of detail and colour was spectacular. It proved to us that we had made a great Job of the mirror this time and the Telescope was not only good for deep sky objects but planets and double stars too!!

At about 04:30, packed up and headed for home. We cannot wait for the next clear moonless night.

Dave Owen—Liverpool Astronomical Society
(More details about the making of the 30" and other 'scopes can be found at <http://hometown.aol.com/DATSCOPE/30inchTRO.html> [Ed.]

Society for the History of Astronomy founded



Saturday 29th June 2002 saw the founding of the UK's new national Society for the History of Astronomy, in the glorious and historic surroundings of Wadham College, Oxford, England. The Society's principal aims are: To promote an academic, educational and popular interest in the history of the science of astronomy and related subjects. To encourage new research into the history of astronomy, especially amateur research at the local level, and to facilitate its collation, preservation, publication and dissemination both by conventional means and through the internet or such other new means as may subsequently become available. To bring together those with a common interest in the subject, whether amateur or professional researcher or general enthusiast, and to organise activities for the benefit and interest of the members.

During the meeting, the Society's first Council was elected, which consists of: Hon. President - Dr. Allan Chapman MA D(Phil) FRAS; Hon. Vice President - Sir Patrick Moore CBE FRS; Hon. Vice President - Dr. Michael Hoskin PhD FRAS; Chair - Emily Winterburn MSc; Secretary - Stuart Williams FRAS LRPS; Treasurer - Kenneth J. Goward; General Council Members - Roger Jones, Kevin J. Kilburn FRAS and Dr. Nicholas Kollerstrom MA Cantab PhD FRAS.

In addition, the Society's newly appointed webmaster and newsletter editor, Callum Potter, and Archivist Mark Hurn and Librarian

Madeline Cox were formally introduced.

The Founding Meeting concluded with a Presidential Address by the new Society's Hon. President Dr. Allan Chapman. A group photograph was taken, followed by tea and an astronomy book raffle thanks to the kind sponsorship of publishers Springer-Verlag and booksellers Aurora Books who donated the prizes and have contributed to the Society's Library. Attendees departed at 5.30 pm., all agreeing that a splendid and momentous occasion had taken place, making an excellent start to what will be a new chapter in the history of astronomy.

For general enquiries, please write enclosing a stamped s.a.e. (or two International Reply Coupons) to: Mr. Stuart Williams FRAS LRPS, Secretary, SHA, Flamsteed Villa, 26 Matlock Road, Bloxwich, WS3 3QD, England. For membership details and a membership form, please send a stamped s.a.e. (or two International Reply Coupons) to Mr. Ken Goward, Treasurer, SHA, 14 Keightley Way, Tuddenham St Martin, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 9BJ, England. Web site: <http://www.historyofastronomy.fsworld.co.uk/>

Scarborough & District Astronomical Society



Scarborough & District Astronomical Society's bid for £5000 from the "Awards for All" lottery grants for local groups culminated with the presentation of the award certificate.

The official presentation ceremony took place at 8.00PM on Friday 20th September during the Society's Annual General Meeting. The venue for this event was Seamer & Irton County Primary School, the Society's regular meeting place. The Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Scarborough, Cllr. Sheila Kettlewell and Mrs. Hazel Lynskey made the presentation to the Society's Chairman, Mr Malcolm Hewitt, on behalf of the National Lottery's Awards for All Committee.

With the award we have been able to purchase a 12" Meade GPS Schmidt-Cassegrain Reflecting Telescope, which was on show, and will shortly acquire a video projector.

Both of these items will be of great use to amateur astronomers in the Scarborough area. Even more importantly they will contribute considerably in furthering the educational service that the Scarborough and District Astronomical Society provides at its Public Observing Nights at the Low Dalby Astronomy Centre.

South East Kent AS

Our lecture/talk programme has started well on 21/9/02 with a Konrad Malin-Smith's "Relativity for the Non-Mathematician" which he gave to the society at Eastry church hall, one of our regular meeting places. We were pleased to see several new faces. We are trying to go for more popular subjects, of more interest to the public this season in an effort to dispel the "dry as dust" image of recreational astronomy. The public observing nights are also



under way and Alan Buckman's mirror making classes have born fruit. Visitors to the first public observing night at Walmer (27/9/02) saw several of the telescopes constructed by members over the last 2 years. Our usual Canterbury public meetings venue has had to be moved from the university site to Blean church (just

down the road) because of light pollution. Our contribution to the Canterbury festival will still be at the old site however.

FAS Officer Reports - 2002

Reports from officers to be presented at the AGM of the FAS, 19th October 2002.

Presidents Report

I am stepping in to do the President's report for the past year as Malcolm has had to delegate for various reasons. I am very pleased to report it has been a successful year for the Federation. We continue to see societies come and go, but the overall trend is upwards with the FAS membership growing and many societies reporting an increase in numbers.

The FAS Council has continued to serve voluntarily on your behalf. Individual members will have their own reports, but you should be aware just how much is done behind the scenes to administer the PLI, produce the Newsletter, the Handbook and all the other publications, to publicise the FAS and direct people to your society, to organise the convention, the website and bulletin board and to deal with the finances including raising money on your behalf by selling advertising, slides and anything else we can think of!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on your behalf, all the members of Council for all their hard work during the past year. As usual we are looking for more people to come forward to help out. If you feel you could spare a little of your time in order to join a very elite group of astronomers who work hard but also have a good time, then please let any FAS Council member know.

One difficulty we have had to resolve this past year is the meeting place for our AGM/Convention. Unfortunately, despite the facilities being excellent, the RAL now charges too much for us to continue meeting there, hence our move to Leicester University. Please bear with us in this instance as decisions had to be made very quickly. It may not be an ideal venue (we have yet to find out), but we are grateful to Leicester AS for their help. Any change of venue will please some and annoy others, but I hope the choice of Leicester will not make the travel too far for too many and will bring it nearer to many others.

We have also had to raise the PLI subscription rate, something I am sure the PLI FAS officer will mention. As you are probably aware, all insurance policies have seen an increase in price, but insuring through the FAS is still very good value for money.

Looking ahead, next year sees another National Astronomy Week (23-30th August). This is an opportunity for you to publicise your society and to utilise the national publicity which will surround this week due to the close approach of Mars. The FAS pays a very pivotal role during this week as so many members of the general public will suddenly want to look at Mars through a telescope. Grab this chance to gain members, even if you only have one public viewing session or lecture, and publicise your event on the NAW website (www.astronomyweek.org.uk).

Here's looking ahead to seeing many of you at the convention on October 19th, another successful FAS year and a clear NAW week.

Pam Spence, FAS Vice President

Secretary's Report

The summer months with their short nights are usually a quiet period for astronomical societies, and many take a summer recess. This in turn means that the FAS secretary gets less work to process too. However, now that autumn is upon us, societies are once again in full activity and the level of enquiries has begun to increase dramatically. Since the vast majority of astronomical societies are affiliated to the FAS, it is my policy to guide newcomers only to member societies.

From time to time we receive enquiries from the media regarding local observatories and events. Please make sure that the FAS is kept updated on your activities so that we are aware of any facili-

ties you wish to offer them should the need arise.

Clive Down

Treasurers Report

In this my first year as Treasurer I have had a steep learning curve and am still learning and enjoying the challenge. I look forward to the future.

The audited accounts for the Year 2001-2001 will be presented at the AGM in Leicester University on the 19th October 2002.

The unaudited accounts show a small loss to date but this was due to a sharp increase of the cost of the PLI and also a larger than expected cost for the RAL. The subscriptions received from members covered the cost of printing and posting the newsletters. The PLI increase put a big dent in the finances of some £600 this was due to an unexpected increase in the Premium. It was decided not to call for extra premiums from the societies and use the reserve to cover the cost on a one off basis. Hopefully this will not happen again. All in all the year has left us in a good position.

Peter Cooke

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership is healthy at 184 registered societies or individuals. Of these, 104 societies have less than 45 members, and 138 of them opt to take PLI cover (which is exceptional value).

Most societies have paid their 2002/3 subscriptions but to those who haven't, please do so now. PLI cover is available only to paid up societies, so when your fees are overdue your insurance cover has lapsed.

Fees are £10 for individuals or for societies with fewer than 45 members, and £17.50 for larger societies. PLI cover is £25. Contact the membership secretary for more details.

Jack Climpson

Newsletter Editor's Report

There have been four editions of the newsletter this year (including this one). The content continues with a variety of items including feature articles, book and software reviews, news items from societies and of course the regular Society Roundup. It is always interesting to read Society magazines and newsletters, and where possible I try to use material from these too. Particular thanks go to Doc. Sutton and Jack Climpson who have helped with distribution this year. A special mention also has to be made of our printers, The Favil Press, who continue to print the newsletter at a very competitive rate, and maintain an exceedingly high quality.

Callum Potter

FAS Egroup

This year the FAS Council launched a Yahoo Egroup so that council can communicate more easily with societies electronically, and societies can communicate with each other. At the moment there are about 50 non-council members of the Egroup, which given that there are 184 societies that are members of the FAS is a small proportion of the membership. Although aimed at member society's officers and committee members others can join. You can subscribe by sending a blank e-mail to:

fedastro-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

or by subscribing online at

<http://www.yahoogroups.com/fedastro>.

As this is a 'closed' group, you will have to be approved by one of the moderators before you can take part in the discussions. After that the topics for discussion are up-to-you ...

Hastings and Battle Astronomical Society - Projects



The unveiling of the society's new 16.5 F4.8 telescope

Hastings and Battle Astronomical Society have just finished their latest project - a 16.5" F4.8 Newtonian telescope mounted on a Dobson. This project was achieved within just 6 months!

Since the Society started nine years ago members have learned to make their own optics, telescopes and mounts. The Society has also made a 10" reflector on a Dobsonian mount, an 8" reflector on equatorial mount and a 7" refractor on an altazimuth mount - all for the members' use.

There are also other telescopes in the pipe-line, two of which will be housed within a dome of their own.

The Society also spends time working with the Observatory Science Centre Herstmonceux on public events and continues to support the very important work that the Centre does.

Northants Amateur Astronomers

The NAA continues to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Cornmarket Hall, London Road in Kettering at 7.45pm. Forthcoming speakers include on October 1st our vice-president, Jerry Workman and on November 5th our speaker will be Phil Boswell. For the second year running, our December 3rd meeting will be our annual Christmas lecture which is usually a general interest lecture - this year we have Neil Dyson speaking on 'Pipwell Abbey'.

In addition to our first Tuesday meetings, we also hold less formal gatherings on the third Tuesday of each month at the Newton Field Centre, near Geddington. These meetings usually see a couple of members providing talks and with the rural location of the centre we do try to get out and do some observing whenever conditions allow on these evenings.



Members of the NAA are now very fortunate in having a number of telescopes available for loan. We recently received the donation of a 12" dobsonian telescope which compliments very nicely the 16" 'scope which the group purchased late last year. The latter is a true monster (see left). A number of smaller 'scopes are also available including 8.75" and 6" reflectors and two 60mm refractors.

2003 sees the 20th anniversary of the group. On March 1st 2003, we will be holding a special all day meeting at the Masque Theatre in Barton Seagrave near Kettering. Speakers are currently being lined up and once finalised I will of course let you have

the details for a future newsletter.

For anybody seeking out further information about Northants Amateur Astronomers our web site is at www.geocities.com/naastronomy, or can call Steve Williams directly on 01933 650331.

Local History of Amateur Astronomy Project - Questionnaire on History of Amateur Astronomical Societies

A survey of the local history of amateur astronomical societies is currently underway, with the following aims.

1. To map the growth of local amateur astronomical societies
2. To identify key individuals and events associated with the spread of amateur local astronomical societies especially during the latter half of the 20th Century

In addition, the survey may have contemporary relevance to astronomical societies. In particular, it might help to identify significant types of event in the origin of astronomical societies, which may assist astronomical societies to publicise their future programmes and events.

All members of local astronomical societies are invited to participate. If you wish to do so, please complete a questionnaire which can be downloaded from the website of the Milton Keynes Astronomical Society:

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

or from the website of the Society for the History of Astronomy:

<http://www.historyofastronomy.fsworld.co.uk/>

or from Mike Leggett, Amateur Astronomy Local History Project, 19 Matilda Gardens, Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes MK5 6HT, email mike-pat-leggett@shenley9.fsnet.co.uk

All completed questionnaires received by the deadline will be entered for a prize draw for a £10.00 book token.

Mansfield And Sutton Astronomical Society

Activity at Sherwood Observatory is beginning to gather apace as September heralds the beginning of a new season. The 15 weeks Astronomy Explored evening class we run for the Dept. of Continuing Education at Nottingham University begins on 6th September. The lecture meeting on Tuesday 24th September saw Martin Lunn from York, speak about 'Thomas Cooke - Telescope Maker'. On 29th October it is 'Reading Minds with Magnets: the principles of functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging' by Prof Peter G. Morris School of Physics and Astronomy., University of Nottingham This serves as our scientific but non-astronomical lecture for the year.

On Tuesday 26th November our own member Mr. Gordon Smith of Sherwood Observatory speaks about The Standard Model of the Big Bang: leading to the large scale structure of the Universe.

New computers will help us gather more CCD images from the 24 inch reflector and 6-inch refractor now installed at Sherwood Observatory. The facility now has it's own internet connection, a useful observing and reference aid for members and visitors. Details about MSAS can be found on our website: http://homepage.nflworld.com/graham.shepherd/Sherwood_Observatory.html

WEEKEND RESIDENTIAL ASTRONOMY COURSE

BURTON MANOR COLLEGE, BURTON, NR CHESTER

Tutors: Dr Ed Barnett and Dr Allan Chapman

Price: £145 residential; £108 non-residential

For further details and/or to book, contact: Burton Manor College, Burton, Neston, Cheshire, CH64 5SJ, tel. 0151 336 5172

Orwell AS Open Weekend...

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th November
From 5PM. Last admissions by 9.30PM.

The Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich) will stage their 30th Annual Open Weekend and supporting exhibition at the Orwell Park Observatory, Orwell Park School, Nacton near Ipswich, Suffolk.

The society's various telescopes will be available for observation, including the superb 10" 'Tomline Refractor' built by Troughton & Simms in 1873. The supporting exhibition will feature the work of the society, trade stands and lunar rock/meteorite samples on loan via PPARC.

Admission £1 adult. 50P child/OAP

Full details may be obtained from the society web site www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich Or from the event Coordinator, Kenneth J Goward FRAS tel 01473 785802 KandLGoward@btinternet.com

Leeds Astronomical Society Astromeet 2002 30th November 2002

Speakers:

Dr A. Chapman - Robert Hooke
Prof C. Pillinger - Beagle 2 Expedition to Mars
Prof F. Stephenson - Historical Astronomical Records
G. Poyner - Observing Faint Objects in City Skies
P. Money - "Sun by day, Aurora by night".

Doors should open either at 9 or 9.30. Tickets available on the door for £7.00 (admission price to be confirmed). This Year the venue has changed from Centenary House to the Brunswick Building at Leeds Metropolitan University.

For the location, see the website: <http://www.leedsastronomy.org.uk>
or the Leeds Metropolitan University's web site. It is the Brunswick building.

Scarborough's Spectacular Sunrise 31st May, 2003.

The Occultations Observing Section of The Society for Popular Astronomy and Scarborough & District Astronomical Society, invite you to experience a unique and spectacular event which is due to take place at sunrise on Saturday, 31st May, 2003.

When the sun rises at 04.36 Local Time, on that morning, it will be 93% occulted (hidden) by the moon, and will look exactly like a pair of thin horns rising from out of the sea! Never in recorded history, as far as we know, has Scarborough witnessed a sunrise quite like this and there will not be another one to match it, in the whole of the 21st Century! If the weather behaves, it will indeed be an experience of a lifetime!

For the best view of the spectacular event, telescopes and other equipment will be set up outside the Spa Complex and a running commentary about what is happening, together with guidance to ensure the safe observation of the sun will be given. You will of course need solar viewing "glasses/filters" like the ones used for the 1999 Total Eclipse.

As you have probably guessed by now, the event being referred to is a Partial Eclipse of the Sun, Scarborough's best, until the solar eclipse of 23 September, 2090! The maximum obscuration of the sun takes place exactly at sunrise, so the very best place to be is the Yorkshire Coast, with the zero-horizon provided by the North Sea!

We therefore invite you to spend a Saturday in Scarborough, with a very spectacular start to the day!

North and west of Inverness, in Northern Scotland, the eclipse will be, an annular one. This means that, because the moon is just about as far away from the Earth as it can possibly be, its disk appears to be smaller than usual and cannot cover the sun completely. In consequence, an annulus, or "ring" of bright sun will be seen surrounding the moon. Unfortunately, the weather tends to deteriorate the further north you go at this time of the year!

Visit the Scarborough & District Astronomical Society's Web Page for further details and updates as we approach the date of the eclipse: <http://www.baryte.demon.co.uk/astro> or telephone S&DAS on : 01723 500389

AstroWest 2002



Above, David Shaler,
right David Shaler, Stacey



Parratt, Paul Money.



left Paul Money.

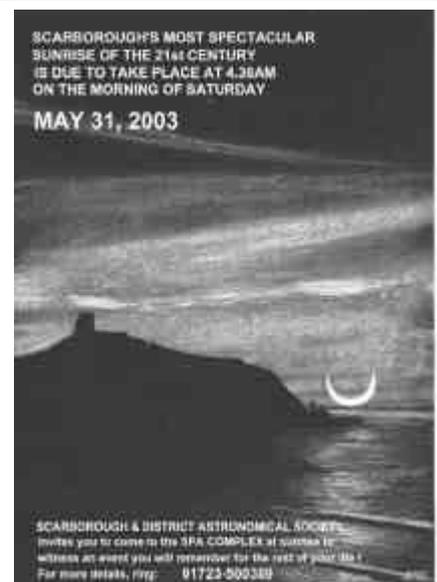
Photos by John Parratt

Visit Javea for Mars in 2003

Next year sees the close approach of the planet Mars (28th August). Visit the Costa Blanca with its good skies, and at the same time why not have a holiday, swim in the Med, and see some local sights.

B&B with trips and 8" Meade Newtonian available. Collection from airport.

Further details from Mike Glazier, Calle De La Cantereria 35, Oliva, Valencia, 46780, Spain. Phone Spain 96 285 3202.



SOCIETY ROUND UP

ABINGDON AS

Meetings at 8.00 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon. Further details from Bob Dryden, 01491 201620, or Sebastian Linfoot, 01865 725094. Website www.abingdonastro.org.uk

Nov 11 Mercury, the Enigmatic Planet, Dr. Sarah Dunkin

Dec 9 The Glory of Star Clusters, Guy Hurst

Jan 13 Stellar Evolution, Dr. Pam Spence

BIRMINGHAM AS

See website www.birmingham-astronomy.co.uk for full details.

Lecture news:

Oct 29 CCD Astronomy, Nik Szymanek

Nov 26 Ramblin' Through the Winter Sky, Paul Money

BRADFORD AS

Meetings are held at Eccleshill Library, Bradford at 7.30 pm. For further details please telephone 01274 583210 or 01274 672570. Website www.bradford-astro.freemove.co.uk

Oct 21 Life, the Universe and Everything by Hugh Osborne of

Huddersfield University

Nov 4 Guest speaker

Nov 7 Public Observing at Otley Chevin 9 pm

Nov 18 Guest speaker

Nov 21 Public Observing at Otley Chevin 9 pm

Dec 2 Observing Orion by Paul Money

Dec 16 Festive Fun at Eccleshill Library

Jan 6 The Wonders of deep space slide show by Rod Hine

Jan 20 "Telescopes and other observing equipment" talk & demonstration by Bradford members

BRISTOL AS

Meetings held on Friday evenings at 7.15pm at Bristol Grammar School, University Road, Bristol.

Contact John Pickard (Vice Chairman), tel. 01454 632692 or

Tricia Brown (Secretary), tel. 0117 968 5023

Website: www.bristolastrosoc.freemove.co.uk

Oct 25 Robotic Telescopes and the Amateur Astronomer, Dr. Paul Roche

Nov 8 The Symphony of Black Holes, Big Bang and Star Quakes, Dr. B Sathyaprakash

Nov 22 COASTing to a really large aperture, Roger O'Brien

Dec 6 Asteroid and Comet: Friend or Foe, Rod Jenkins

Jan 17 Astronomical Imaging from La Palma, Nik Szymanek

Jan 31 Astronomical Imaging, Nicholas Hart

CAMBRIDGE AS

Meetings on 3rd Friday of the Month, in the Hoyle Building of the Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, at 7.30 pm.

Contact: Stanley Trafford (Secretary), 01223 880624.

Website: www.caa-cambridge.co.uk

Also, Cambridge Young Astronomers with meetings for 7-11 year olds, and 11 years +.

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

Oct 31 Indoor Astronomy, How to control the 12inch LX200, Dr Lilian Hobbs

Nov 14 The Beagle 2 mission to Mars, Prof Colin Pillinger

Nov 28 Infrared Astronomy mainly with Satellites, Dr Helen Walker

Dec 12 Dwarf galaxies and Cosmology, Dr Jon Davies

Jan 9 Did a Comet hit the Earth in AD536, Dr D Ward Thompson

Jan 23 The Naked Astronomer, Jonathan Powell

COTSWOLD AS

Meetings at Shurdington Church Hall, Shurdington, Cheltenham. Contact Duncan Willoughby 01452 416405. Website www.cotswoldas.org.uk.

Nov 9 Deep Space From Wiltshire, Philip Perkins

Dec 14 Destination Moon

Jan 11 Revd. Thomas William Webb, Dr. Allan Chapman

EASTBOURNE AS

Meet on the first Saturday of the month from October to July, in the Willingdon Memorial Hall, Church Street, Willingdon.

Meetings start at 7.30pm. Contact Peter Gill, tel. 01323 646853

Nov 2 How did the Universe get here ?, Sir Denys Wilkinson

Dec 7 Near-Earth Objects: The Risks of Collision, Prof. Mark Bailey

Jan 4 Members' Evening with a number of short talks by members

ASTRONOMY SECTION OF LA SOCIETE

GUERNESAISE

Meets at the Observatory, Rue Du Lorier, St. Peters, Guernsey, every Tuesday evening. Website: www.astronomy.org.gg

HANNEY & DISTRICT AS

Lectures held at 8.00pm, British Legion Hall, Hanney. Contact Sue Connell Secretary 01235 766688

Oct 31 Our Knowledge of the Moon: What Clementine and

Lunar Prospector Have Told Us, Dr Sarah Dunkin

Nov 28 The Transit of Venus, George Huxtable

Jan 30 Mars – Its Meteorology and Climate, Dr Peter Read

AS OF HARINGEY

Meetings at White Hart Lane School, Wood Green, N22 at 7.30 pm Website: www.garym.demon.co.uk.

Nov 20 Making Telescopes, Gary Marriott

Dec 11 M.A.T.II, Mat Irvine

Jan 15 Mars Global Surveyor Images and Observing Mars, Jerry Workman

HARROGATE AS

Correction to website addressed published in last edition - it should be: www.harrogate-astro-soc.freemove.co.uk

HEBDEN BRIDGE AS

Meets at Hope Baptist Church, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, every 4th Wednesday from September to May, at 7-30pm.

Contact: John Singleton, 01282 616294, email: j.hbas@argonet.co.uk Web site: www.hbas.org.uk

Oct 30 Members Evening .

Nov 13 'Dark Matter : the stuff of the Universe', Dr Susan Cartwright (Sheffield University)

Dec 11 'Planetary Nebulae', Dr Myfanwy Bryce (Jodrell Bank).

Jan 8 'Living with a Star', Dr Robert Walsh (University of Central Lancashire)

HERSCHEL AS (Berkshire)

Meets at Eton College, 8pm 2nd Friday each month Sept to May. Observatory houses historic Cooke 6" refractor. January 2003

meeting moved to 24th to accommodate Dr Allan Chapman, Department of the History of Science at Oxford University, who will give a talk on Galileo.

Secretary: Bruce Collins 01344 645681 bruce.collins@ntlworld.com

HULL & EAST RIDING AS

Public star party in the Skidby Mill Car Park on 11th October from 7.30 pm. Further details from Tony Scaife (President), 01482 668665, or website

<http://uk.geocities.com/herasweb/index.htm>.

Meetings on Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6

ILKESTON & DISTRICT AS

Meetings take place after 7:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, in the function room, Erewash Museum, Anchor Row, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Further details from Mary McNulty, 01298 78234

Website: <http://members.aol.com/idasastro/index.htm>

Nov 12 TBA

Dec 10 AGM & Christmas Party

Jan 14 Talk by John Brown (Chairman IDAS).

KNOWLE AS

Meetings are held usually on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm at Dorridge Methodist Hall, Mill Lane, Dorridge, Solihull West Midlands.

Visit our website at www.users.totalise.co.uk/~knowleastro/
Contact: Bruce Fulford, 01564 772617 e-mail: xyp60@dial.pipex.com.

- Nov 4 "The East Anglia Centre" Peter Steel
"Astrophotography" Richard Birtles.
Dec 2 "Travels Downunder" Richard Beare & Social evening.
Jan 6 "Telescopic Astrophotography" Ian Gray.

LEEDS AS

Meetings held at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds, Doors open from 7pm. For Further Details please visit the Society's Website on www.leedsastronomy.org.uk
30th Nov. LEEDS ASTROMEET

LIVERPOOL AS

Venue for monthly meetings is the Roman Catholic Cathedral's Crypt Concert Room, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. (Maps from the Secretary). Meetings commence at 7pm until 9pm. Please contact Secretary: Tel 0151-638 3270 or email: clarklunar@aol.com
Weekly Meetings at the Society's Pex Hill Observatory every Weds 7-9pm (later if weather allows use of telescopes). Details from the Director of Obs 0151-292 7165

Monthly Meetings:

- Nov 15 "The Names of Stars", Mr Bob Mizon F.R.A.S
Dec 13 LAS Members Night - Members Short talks/presentations, recent observations Dec 2002 Eclipse.
Jan 17 "Observatories", Mr Michael Maunder BAA

LOUGHTON AS

Meeting every Thursday at 8.00 pm. in the Scout Hall, Loughton Lane, Theydon Bois, Essex. evenings. Web site las-astro.org.uk

MID-KENT AS

Meet at 8.00 pm at Bredhurst Village Hall, contact 01634 308035

Nov 29 Deep Sky Observing, Owen Brazell

Dec 13 Christmas Party

Jan 31 Greg Smyth-Rumsby, talk TBA

NEWBURY AS

Meets at United Reformed Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Newbury, starting at 7.30pm. Contact: Ann Davies, tel. 01635 30598 or David Boyd, tel. 012357 65985

Email: naas@btinternet.com. Website: www.naas.btinternet.co.uk

Nov 8 Planetary Nebulae, Owen Brazell

Dec 13 La Palma, George Sallit

Jan 10 Deep Space From Wiltshire, Philip Perkins

NORTH EAST LONDON AS

Meets normally on the third Sunday of each month (excluding August) between 3pm and 6pm, in the Park Room, Wanstead House, 21, The Green, Wanstead, London, E11.

Contact Bernard Beeston, tel. 020 8363 5696

FAS Publications

The FAS 'Astrocalendar 2002-2003' is now available. The FAS Handbook 2002/3 will be published in December 2002. One copy of the Handbook is supplied to all societies as part of the membership. Discounts for quantity purchases, pricing details are available at:

http://www.fedastro.freemove.co.uk/publications/members_prices.html

Astrocalendar 2002/3	£1.40 + A5 SAE with 33p stamps
Observational Astronomy	£2.00 + A5 SAE with 33p stamps
Using a Telescope	£1.80 + A5 SAE with 33p stamps
Step by Step Astrophotography	£1.30 + A5 SAE with 27p stamps
Choosing a Telescope or Binoculars	£0.60 + A5 SAE with 27p stamps
FAS Handbook 2001 (published 2001)	£1.00 + A5 SAE with 44p stamps
FAS Handbook 2002/3 (published Dec. 2002 - Every paid-up FAS Member Society gets a copy free)	£3.50 + A5 SAE with 44p stamps

Queries are usually easier via e-mail to the Publications Secre-

Prices held through 2002

PAPWORTH ASTRONOMY CLUB

The Papworth Astronomy Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Papworth Everard, near Huntingdon, either in the Bradbury Progression Centre or in Upper Pendrill Court. Our meetings are open to everyone.

Further details can be obtained from Keith Tritton (tel 01767 677219, email kpt2@tutor.open.ac.uk). The next programme will be distributed in October. If you would like it sent by email please let Keith know your email address.

Nov 6 Strangers from space, Monica Grady, Natural History Museum, at Conference Room 1, Upper Pendrill Court

SOLENT AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Meetings are held in Room 8 Oaklands Centre, Fairisle Rd, Lordshill Southampton 7.30 to 10pm.

Contact Ken Medway kenmedway@kenmedway.demon.co.uk

Website www.delscope.demon.co.uk

Nov 19 New Window on the Universe, B.S.Sathyaprakash

Dec 17 Visiting Comets, Rod Jenkins

Jan 21 Fourteen Pioneers of Astronomy, Bob Mizon

SOUTHAMPTON AS

Meetings are held in the Seminar Room, Floor 5, Physics and Astronomy Building 46, University of Southampton, at 7-30 pm, on the 2nd Thurs of the month. Contact: John Thompson, 023 8084 2531, e-mail: John.G.Thompson@tesco.net Website:- <http://www.southampton-astronomical-society.org.uk>

Nov 14 "South African Large Telescope", Dr Malcolm Coe

Dec 12 "Video and Social Evening"

Jan 9 "Back to basics - a beginners guide" by Ian Gore and Neil Gwillym

STRATFORD UPON AVON AS

Meetings at the Home Guard Club, Tiddington, Nr Stratford upon Avon. www.astro.org.uk, Mike Whitecross 01789 731784.

Oct 22 "Astronomical Complexities", by Prof. Sandra Chapman.

Nov 13 "Radio Astronomy Workshop".

Nov 26 "X-ray Binaries", by Dr. Paul Roche.

Dec 10 "Wonders of the Solar Corona", by Valery Nakariakov.

WESSEX AS

Meetings held 1st Tuesday in month at the Allendale Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne, Dorset at 19.30. Contact Sec: John Hooker 01929 551530. Visit Web Site www.wessex-astro-society.freemove.co.uk

WOLVERHAMPTON AS

Please take a moment to review the New Season at Wolverhampton Astronomical Society which begins on Monday 16th September. Full details are on our Web Site at www.wolvas.org.uk including venue, membership and contact details. Any questions to Michael Bryce, email: secretary@wolvas.org.uk

YORK AS

Meetings are held in the Denham Room, The Priory Street Centre, York, Meetings start at 7.30 for 8pm. Members £1.00 Non-members £2. Children under 16 are free. Tea, coffee, squash & biscuits are available at most meetings. Between September and April, weather permitting we have an observing session following the formal meeting. For more information contact Hazel on 07944 751277

Nov 1 SETI, Dr Ian Morrison, Jodrell Bank Observatory

Nov 15 Black Holes, Prof Malcolm Ludington, York University

Dec 6 Comets, Dr Jonathan Shanklin, BAA

Jan 3 Volcano's on Mars, Kevin Reed, West Yorkshire AS

Jan 17 The origin of the metre, David Cook, Harrogate AS

Details should be confirmed before travelling to any meeting mentioned. All programmes may be subject to change with no notice. The FAS can accept no responsibility for any inaccuracies.

Deadline for submission for next newsletter, 30th December 2002

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

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See front cover for details

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