THE 2004 FAS
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING AND
CONVENTION
Will Be Held On
2nd October 2004
At The Institute of Astronomy,
Madingley Road, Cambridge

Speakers
Prof. Douglas Gough
Director, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge
Title to be advised

Dr. Paul Murdin
Senior Fellow at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge,
"The Reality of Black Holes"

Guy Hurst
Editor, The Astronomer, "Supernovae"

Dr. Cathie Clark
Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge
"Formation of stars and brown dwarfs"

Trade Stands and Society Displays
Andromeda Books, Aurora Books, Widescreen Centre,
Earth and Sky
Society for the History of Astronomy, Society for Popular
Astronomy, Planetary Society

Tickets prices are £7.00 in advance and £8.00 on the day. Lecture theatre is limited to 180 seats so book early to avoid
disappointment.
Tickets available from Stan Waterman, 'Amadeus House',
Temple End, Charlton, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 7TE. 01462
433912 or email ticket.sales@fedastro.org.uk
There will be no meals provided this year and delegates are
advised to bring packed lunches or make use of a nearby
pub or MacDonalds.
Tea & coffee is available.

FAS Council
Without the willing enthusiasm of the members of the coun-
cil of the FAS, there would be no FAS. It seems obvious, but
every year we struggle to fill all of the places on Council.
Over the last few years, there has always been one or two
untfilled places. This means that jobs don't get done, or that
other essential activities suffer.

I am writing to all of you now, because I know that several
long-standing Council members wish to stand down from
their posts. It is therefore essential to recruit some fresh faces
onto Council. The two most critical posts that are or will be
vacant shortly are Publications Officer and Newsletter Edi-
tor.

The various publications that we produce (e.g. Astrocalen-
dar) are essential to the existence of the FAS - they provide
our largest source of income after subscriptions. The Publi-
cations Officer does not produce the raw material (for exam-
ple the Liverpool AS provide the Astrocalendar in camera
ready format), but is responsible for getting the material
printed and distributed. Malcolm Jones has performed this
role for many years and he stood down from this at the last
AGM, but the post is still vacant.

Callum Potter has been our Newsletter Editor for a number
of years. Callum Potter has said that he will stand-down at the
AGM. This role is crucial to the FAS - it is the main link
with the member societies. At present we produce 3 News-
letter a year. The Editor is completely responsible for its
production. There is help with the packing and distribution.
Callum will produce the next two Newsletters, so now is a
good time to get involved and learn how it works.

This is another very important role that is vital to the FAS'continued existence. If you are interested in either of these
roles, then please either contact Malcolm or Callum directly,
or contact our Secretary, Clive Down. If you are serious
about getting involved, you will be welcome to attend the
next council meeting on July 3. E-mail links to Coun-
cil members can be found on our web site
www.fedastro.org.uk.

There are other vacant slots on Council, including several
regions which have not appointed their Representatives. If
you are serious about the development of amateur astronomy
in this country, then this is your opportunity to get involved.
If you have any questions, or would like to know more,
please get in touch.

Thank you, Ron Kelley, FAS President.
Phapos Astronomical Society – Cyprus
By Dave Doc Sutton

My visit to Cyprus was unrelated to Astronomy, but a pre-season cricket tour of four matches over the Easter Holiday Period followed by a short holiday. We enjoyed the local weather very hot and sunny clear skies with the temperature in upper 30’s. Our group of 38 cricketers all age fifty plus and my role as scorer on our pre-season tour of the main cricket season in the UK our cricket went well and our holiday was fully relaxing.

During my stay in Cyprus I had made previous contact with the Local Society Phapos, for the past 11 years I have been distributing the FAS-Newsletters on behalf of the FAS. Although Phapos AS are a young Society of a few years they do not receive the postal edition but our email edition, printing and email copies locally within Phapos as Society Members require.

The group are very active bunch of middle age average persons and I’m advised they have recently started a junior section, with member’s nearly 20 persons in all. Their weather would cause many of us in UK envious of their clear skies, and for those in the UK who travelled that part of the Mediterranean will know of the many days and nights of black unpolluted clear skies.

I met up in the early evening and travelled from my hotel to Phapos about an hour on arrival at our viewing site we had a sit down meal, wine flowed, discussions took place. Phapos Society are very active, recently Mars was topic of interest to the locals and the secretary advised me that many locals came and viewed Mars with the public. They meet regularly within a hotel monthly and cover many subjects with many dark sites to choose from viewing session’s take place regularly.

Our evening viewing, approx 8-kilometres west of Phapos, commenced around 8.00pm (Local Time) with a portable battery driven telescope Goto-Netstar 6”, I was advised they also have a 6”Newtonian Refractor, binoculars. Viewing from the comfort of chairs, no jets passing overhead as we have in the Sussex Coast just clear black very dark skies. With one’s naked eye one could see many more stars clearly; through the telescope and binoculars we viewed (Venus, Jupiter, Orion, Virgo, Plough, M42, M31, M45, M31 and many constellations) we had during the viewing period no haze or light pollution.

The future, their secretary suggested if any astronomers from the UK on holiday in Cyprus would like to visit they were more than welcomed to join the group at their monthly meeting and if able to give a short talk of half an hour this would be appreciated by all. It’s worth the effort just to see more of the heavens than in the UK and the wine.

Thanks to Carmen & David Brown for a pleasant evenings viewing and hospitality many thanks.

The Isle of Man AS

The Isle of Man Astronomical Society will be 15 years old at the end of May this year so some celebrations will be in order.

Our observatory is now fully functioning and houses a 16” Meade LX 200 GPS telescope.

We have just held an official reception, on Feb 19th at the observatory, to thank all those who helped the main building part of the project in any way with sponsorship and support. We had over 45 people in attendance; members provided an excellent buffet with wine and tea or coffee. Unfortunately it was cloudy, so we were restricted to showing the facilities to them and not views through the telescope. All other sponsors and members who helped in any way will be invited to an official opening ceremony at a later date.

We have reached a stage where we can be proud of our achievements. The observatory consists of a centrally heated clubroom which can take up to 60 people, attached is a store area, above which, is a 20ft. diameter dome. The telescope was installed in August and this has given some excellent views of the planets and nebulae. Some superb images have been obtained by David Storey using a web-cam and an imaging program. We are now in a position to start looking for a decent CCD camera.

Already we are swamped out by groups wishing to visit the observatory, we have already had visits from scouts, cubs, brownies, ladies groups, church groups, rotary clubs and wildlife trust groups. Once we get the CCD system running we intend to pipe images down to groups in the clubroom.

The society fields are a natural habitat for skylarks and various birds and wildlife. We also have wild orchids growing in the fields; these are eligible for protection under a section 30 agreement with our department of agriculture. It is hoped to further develop these natural amenities.

The IOM/AS is hosting the BAA out of town meeting this September, details of the program will be available from the BAA shortly. We are grateful to David Storey for co-ordinating the event in conjunction with the BAA.

As you can see the Isle of Man Astronomical Society has become very successful, largely due to the hard work, generosity and welcoming nature of its members.

Radio Leeds Astromind

This year it is the turn of the Hull & East Riding AS to host the Radio Leeds Astromind competition, and on behalf of the Society, I would like to invite you to join HERAS for this years competition.

It will be held on Saturday October 9th and we shall be hosting it at the Blackburn Leisure Social Club in association with the Blackburn Leisure AS. Final details have yet to be finalised, but it is hoped to have trade exhibitors attending the event in addition to the competition.

There is ample space and car parking at the Social Club, plus refreshment facilities will be available on the day in the club itself. During the interval the Blackburn Leisure AS will only be too pleased to show interested parties their new observatory, which is situated in the Social Club grounds.

If you feel that your society cannot field a contestant, then you are still welcome to come and join us to enjoy the day.

For further information, please contact Rob Overfield, at astrosport02@astrosport02.karoo.co.uk or keep an eye on our website http://uk.geocities.com/herasweb/
Redshift 5
Review by John Parratt

At one of the FAS council meetings, I was given Redshift 5 to review. I still have a Redshift 3 on my computer, which I still run from time to time, so I thought I would give Redshift 5 ago, and see what’s new.

I was quite impressed with the opening pages, and the programme telling you how to use it, the graphics I have found are very good, it seems fairly straightforward.

Space and Time: the programme allows you to go to any planet in the solar system and any body out side our system, you can look back at the earth and see its moon, you can even move back in time, in fact back to ancient Egypt, to see the night sky as it was in the time of the Pharaohs, plus the programme shows you star positions for the future too.

Celestial Objects: Redshift 5 has a vast object database, in fact 20,000,000 stars, Milky Way, 70,000 deep sky objects, around 50,000 minor planets, other objects include Comets, Star clusters, and Galaxies.

You can also go on line, the internet that is, so that you can update R5. You can import any object that you don’t have, and new objects that have just been discovered, you can also make up your own catalogue to add data to.

You can also use information from Hipparcos and Tycho II stellar guide catalogue plus the Hubble star catalogue 2.2.

Taking Control: You take control of R5, by using the control panel, if you are observing with your telescope outside click the night vision switch to see the screen without adjusting your eyes.

One thing I liked about R5 was the fact that I could see the Earth and all the artificial satellites, which are known, and you can use it as your own mission control and watch all the satellites moving around the Earth, it’s a bit of an eye opener.

If you are using your telescope, and are looking for information on a certain object, R5 will find it for you, then click on the reverse button and the image will change to the eyepiece view.

Redshift 5 gives you the opportunity to see past events, there is a navigation pad to fill in, just punch in the three questions (date of event, where you want to see the event from, and where to look), and then R5 shows you the event as a movie, but at different angles. A demonstration is given flying on the Cassini probe on its fly by of earth on its way to Saturn, its well worth seeing, as it will probably the only time I’ll get to fly by the Earth.

Macro Players: For beginners like myself, you can get used to R5, by using the guided tours, these are very good, not only are you visually shown how to use the many functions, but you are talked through them as well. R5 will show you all about the events of the past, like the Solar eclipse of 585 B.C, which you can view at many angles. R5 will show you the famous conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn on a certain night over Jerusalem.

Sky Diary: The sky diary gives you interesting events for each month, and you can add to this when on line, if anything has been discovered.

I have written only a portion of what Redshift 5 can do, and I’m still getting used to the programme, but I can honestly say, that if you are a beginner or just starting out in astronomy, then it’s a programme that’s well worth looking at.

Practical Amateur Spectroscopy
Edited by Stephen F. Tonkin
Review by Ian Coulson

This book “does exactly what it says on the label”, to quote a well-known advert. Practical it certainly is, and any reader expecting a good yarn to while away a rainy winter’s evening had better think again. After an excellent 50-page introduction to spectroscopy fundamentals by the Editor, we are encouraged to ‘get out there’ with our unwanted CDs and check the spectrum of the nearest star (i.e. the Sun), or a street lamp if it’s dark!

This chapter and the remainder of the book are contributions from different authors, six of them, concerning the building (oh yes!) and use of spectrosopes, including commercially available ones, and their integration with whatever telescopes/lenses/optical trains you happen to have access to. Comprehensive guidance is given on subjects such as: the sorts of targets which are suitable for different aperture telescopes; the use of fibre optics; construction materials and tolerances; data collection; what software you will need; and, most importantly, interpreting your results if and when you get any.

Numerous diagrams, illustrations and photographs appear in just the right place (no searching for the right picture in the 10-page block in the middle of the book), and interpretation of various spectra is given in due weight - lots of graphs with wiggly lines on! A section at the end lists suppliers, websites, a bibliography, short biographies of the authors and a comprehensive index.

What I noticed about the book was its complete absence of getting the reader to take up spectroscopy as an interest. The writers all treat this volume as a textbook on the subject, as opposed to an introductory work. That’s all very well, but it means I can’t recommend it as a casual read (as I said at the beginning) or as a book to start an astronomer off in a new direction. My impression is that you have to have been grabbed by the subject already, in which case you would use this book as an invaluable (very much so) reference manual.

Those of you who have little or no mathematical ability, don’t panic! There’s virtually no maths involved and very little physics. It’s all as practical as anyone could wish it to be, and all of your efforts after reading this book will be directed towards getting results (after getting the right equipment of course). Neither is it necessary to have a small fortune to invest - not unless you want to, of course - because some very useful spectroscopy can be done with surprisingly little. If you already have a telescope with a camera body attached, a little ingenuity and a diffraction grating can get you a long way. It seems equally possible to build a research grade spectroscope if you have some engineering ability (or know someone who has), and use it to obtain very professional-looking results.

All-in-all, a straightforward coverage of what could be a daunting subject, in a highly readable format, but not for anyone looking to sit down with a drink and a good book in front of the fire!


Priced at £24.00.
210 pages.
ISBN 1-85233-489-4
SPA Transit CD

The Society for Popular Astronomy has a Powerpoint CD about the transit of Venus. This will be suitable for use in society meetings and will consist of a live recording of the lecture by Dr Allan Chapman on this subject. The lecture tells the fascinating story of the previous observations of the transits, from Jeremiah Horrocks's historic first observation to Cook's famous voyage to Tahiti. There are some amazing tales of intrepid endeavour and in some cases plain bad luck, all told in Allan Chapman's very entertaining style.

The lecture lasts approximately 75 minutes and includes a number of illustrations. The CD will be available from 31 March, and requires a PC running Microsoft Powerpoint. Unfortunately, the presentation does not run satisfactorily on a Mac, though it should be possible to play the sound only on either PC or Mac. It will cost £5.95 (£4.95 to SPA members who should quote their membership number) from Venus CD, 36 Fairway, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5DU. Please make cheques payable to the SPA. You can also order the CD using your credit card via the SPA website www.popastro.com.

Solar Viewers

Many societies have expressed an interest in the availability of Solar Viewers for observing the transit. Hazel Collett of York AS with the British Astronomical Association has organised the import of CE-certified black polymer solar viewers from Thousand Oaks, Inc. of California. These may be purchased from the BAA office for £1.00 each inclusive of first class postage. Quantities of 5 or more are priced at 75p each. An information sheet about safe viewing will accompany the viewers. Please send your cheque with order to the British Astronomical Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0DU. Further contact details are available on the BAA web site www.britastro.org

Note for BAA Members; a free viewer will be distributed with the June 2004 BAA Journal.

Jersey Astronomy Club

February 9th 2004 brought a fresh look to the Jersey Astronomy Club with the official name of the facility being revealed to the public. The club site in Jersey’s Les Creux Millenium Park in the south west of the Island is now named the ‘Sir Patrick Moore Astronomy Centre’ and is the most southern observing area in the British Isles.

The purpose built centre covering a large area was a partnership between a States of Jersey Committee under the banner of Education, Sport and Culture, private sponsors, financial institutions, and club members.

Although the club has existed for around 12 years, it has never had a stable home it could call it’s own. Planning for the new centre started in 2001 with the aim of finding a site and raising the necessary finance. Finally all problems were overcome and the clubroom came into being.

Apart from the main club telescope, facilities include projection of live images from the telescope onto screens with simultaneous capture of images onto video via underground vision lines, and slide and film projection for lecture purposes. The interior of the club measures 500 square feet and can accommodate up to 40 people in comfort. Club and members’ telescopes are also used from solar observing and later it is planned that radio astronomy will be part of the complex.

Present membership is just over 60 and is drawn from a broad spectrum of the population. During the 12-month work up period prior to the official opening, over 900 people attended lectures and open days for special observing sessions.

The Jersey Astronomy Club is normally open on a Monday evening from about 8.00 pm. Tel. 01534 747506 to check.

Enquiries to Chairman - Marcel Le Masson (01534 865896) or Secretary—Eileen Besnard (01534 860802). Website is www.geocities.com/jerseyastronomyclub

The Equinox Sky Camp

The Equinox Sky Camp

Sponsored by Telescope House

Friday 10th September to Sunday 19th September 2004

At the KELLING HEATH LEISURE PARK, Weybourne, Holt, NORFOLK ENGLAND NR25 7HW

One of the last dark sites in Mainland Britain

Cost:

£9 per night inc Electric Hook Up

To Book Tel: 01263 588181

Quote Ref KH1

See Websites www.kellingheath.co.uk and www.starparty.org for further details

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

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
Kielder Forest Star Camp  
Northumberland  
14 - 17 October 2004

I’m delighted to be able to give you details of the 2004 Kielder Forest Star Camp. Last year’s inaugural event organised by Sunderland Astronomical Society and the Forestry Commission was a great success, with a full campsite and three largely clear nights under the wonderful dark skies of Northumberland. This time round star camp will be staged over four nights (rather than three) from Thursday 14 October to Sunday 17 October, inclusive. The venue remains Kielder Forest campsite in the remote Border region and the main day will be on Saturday 16 October at 18th century Kielder Castle.

Leading vendors already signed-up to attend include Green Witch, Widescreen Centre, Bray Imaging and our main sponsor this year, Pulsar (Optical). There will also be Starlab, barbeque, tours of the observing field and talks by two top speakers from the world of astronomy.

Campsite pitch fees are from £10 per night. Facilities include a laundrette, pay phone, electric hook-ups, showers with hot and cold water, toilet disposal point and children’s play area.

During the day you will have the opportunity to explore one of Britain’s great wilderness areas, which aside from its amazing wildlife, is also wonderful walking and biking country. You can even take a steam ship cruise on Kielder Water.

But the prime attraction will be the quality of the night sky – which a recent CPRE survey revealed to be one of the nation’s darkest.

RIVIERA  
ASTROCAMP 2004  
(formerly AstroWest)

At Torquay Boys’ Grammar School  
(hosted by the Torbay Astronomical Society)

The 3rd summertime gathering of amateur astronomers from the south west of England and beyond.

Camping available on the school grounds from Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th August 2004

- Use of 50cm reflector in school observatory + other telescopes (weather permitting)
- Plenty of space to set up own equipment on level surfaces
- Guest speakers (tba) on the Saturday
- Barbecue on the Saturday evening (by prepaid ticket)
- Rocket launching competition (bring your own or watch others)
- Many other attractions in locality of South Devon (eg Dartmoor, beaches, Paignton Zoo, theatres, cinemas, Living Coasts etc.)

e-mail for camping booking form  
(£3 ppn, under 16s free):  
grahame@veale.freeserve.co.uk  
Visit http://torbayastro.org.uk/ and http://www.halien.com/SWAA/ for reports of previous events

COSMOS V

Saturday 18 September 2004  
10.00 a.m. – 6.15 p.m.  
at University of Durham, Queen’s Campus, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland

Featuring:

PROFESSOR MIKE EDMUNDS  
“Sir Isaac Remembers”

DR. FRANCISCO DIEGO  
“The Lives of Stars”

DR. PAULA CHADWICK  
“Astronomy at the End of the Rainbow”

PETER REA  
“Far Encounters”

PAUL MONEY  
“Impact! Target Earth!”

Admission £8, by advance ticket only.

For tickets, send payment and s.a.e. to:  
Mr. N. M. Haggath, 74 Queensferry Gardens, Shelton Lock, Derby. DE24 9JS.

Make cheques payable to “Cosmos North-East”.

Hosted by Cleveland and Darlington A.S
ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT AS  
Contact Rhona M. Paterson, Secretary, Tel: 01224 484074  
rhona.paterson@tiscali.co.uk

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

AS OF HARINGEY  
Meetings at Asmole School, Southgate, London N14, at 7.30 pm www.ashastro.org.uk

AYLESBURY AS  
Meetings take place at the Scout Hut, Oakfield Road, Aylesbury.  
Contact Simon Foster on 01844 216108  
www.aylesbury-astronomy.org.uk

BEDFORD AS  
Meets last Wednesday of every month at the Piazza Smyth Community Observatory, Bedford School, Pemberley Avenue  
Contact: Paul Barton, 01234 309249  
www.bedastro.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM AS  
Wednesday Evenings at Aston Uni. Club Night; Library, telescope construction, & if it is clear observing at the Priory Observatory.  
Contact Hilary on 01274 672570 or John on 01274 419142  
www.birmingham-astronomy.co.uk

BRADFORD AS  
Meetings held at Eccleshill Library, Bolton Road, Bradford at 7.30 pm  
www.bradastro.freeuk.co.uk  
Tel.01255 429849. www.clactonastronomy.co.uk

Cleveland & Darlington AS  
Most monthly meetings held at Grindon Parish Hall.  
Neil M. Haggath, Tel. 01332 740977, E-mail: neil.haggath@ntlworld.com

Cotswold AS  
Meets second Saturday of every month at Shurdington Social Centre, Shurdington, Cheltenham. 7.45 pm. Contact Callum Potter (01684-773256 ), coordinator@cotswaldas.org.uk, www.cotswaldas.org.uk

Coventry AS  
Meetings are at Earlston Methodist Church Hall, Earlshorn Rd South, Coventry, commencing at 7:15 PM.  
Contact: Steve Payne 02476 474227

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, email pbj.gill@btinternet.com

Ewell AS  
Meets 2nd Friday each month at St Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.  
Contacts: Robert Beeman 01326 341164 www.CornwallAS.org.uk

Eastbourne AS  
Meetings at the Observatory, Rue du Lorier, St. Peters, Guernsey. Every Tuesday evening and Friday if clear for observing.  
www.astronomy.org.gg

Ewelton 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@liddat.demon.co.uk  
www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org

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Hampstead Garden Suburb AS  
Meetings at 7.30 pm at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, Central Square, London NW11 7BN, on the last Wednesday of the month during Institute term time. Speakers and observing evenings. Details from Dianne Fishman tel: 020 8458 4038 email: dianne@dfish.demon.co.uk or Andrew Glendinning tel: 020 8455 5501, email: aglendinning@btconnect.com

Harrogate AS  
Meets last Friday of the month at the Harlow Community Centre, Beckwith Avenue, Harrogate. Meetings start 7.45 pm. Contact Lyn Smith, Tel: 01937 531171, E-mail: lynsmithbridgehouse@hotmail.com

Huddersfield Astro. & Phil. Society  
Meetings at Observatory and Town Hall  
www.huddersfieldastronomy.co.uk

Ilkison & District Astronomical Society  
All meetings take place at the Erewash Museum, Ilkeston, starting at 7-45pm. Contact for further details, Mary Mcnulty 01298 78234.
Jun 8 Nebulae & their discoverers, John Brown
Jul 13 Albert Russell Norris, Anne Burnett
Aug 10 Space Planes & Lifting Bodies, James Ince
Sep 14 TBA

JERSEY ASTRONOMY CLUB
Club meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Sir Patrick Moore Astronomy Centre, Les Creux Country Park, St Brelade. Also meets most Monday evenings from 8 p.m., telephone 01534 747506 to check at the center. Visitors are welcome.

LEEDS AS
Centenary House, North Street, Leeds between 7.00 pm and 9.30 pm leedsastronomy.org.uk

LIVERPOOL AS
Venue for monthly meetings is the Roman Catholic Cathedral's Crypt Concert Room, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Meetings commence at 7pm until 9pm.

STAFFORD & DISTRICT AS
Meetings held at Weston Road High School, Stafford. 19.15

LOUGHTON AS
Meeting every Thursday at 8.00 pm. in the Scout Hall, Loughton Lane, Theydon Bois, Essex. Contact Andrew Robertson (01371-874175) or Charles Munton (020-8889-9253) las-astro.org.uk

MILTON KEYS AS
Meetings are held at Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes on alternate Fridays, 8 pm. Changes of venue, additional observing and social events will be announced at meetings. Annual membership is £20 for full members with a 50% reduction for concessions For further information, contact: David Mainwaring (Secretary and Librarian) tel. 01908 563561, Mike Leggett (Publicity Officer) tel. 01908 503692, E-mail: mike-pat-leggett@shenley9.fsnet.co.uk

NORTH EAST LONDON AS
Meetings start at 7.30 for 8pm. Members £1.00 Non-members £2. Children under 16 are free. Contact Hazel on 07944 751277

SCARBOROUGH & DISTRICT AS
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SOLENT AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS
Meetings are in Room 8,Oaklands Centre,Lordshill, Southampton

SHROPSHIRE AS
Speaker meetings are generally held on the first Friday of the month in Park Hotel, Shrewsbury with a monthly observing meeting at Rodington Village Hall

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY
Contact Stuart Williams, secretary@shastro.org.uk www.shastro.org.uk

STAFFORD & DISTRICT AS
Meetings held at Weston Road High School, Stafford. 19.15 L Hodkinson, 01785 712065

STOUR AS
Meets first TUESDAY of every month. 7.30 p.m. The Jubilee Room, Cavendish Memorial Hall, Cavendish, Suffolk www.stourastro.org.uk email :- secretary@stourastro.org.uk

STRATFORD UPON AVON AS
All meetings begin 7.30pm at the Home Guard Club, Tiddington near Stratford upon Avon. Further details at www.astro.org.uk or from Mike Whitecross 01789 731784.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE AS
Meetings start at 7.30 for 8pm. Members £1.00 Non-members £2. Children under 16 are free. Contact Hazel on 07944 751277

WOLVERHAMPTON AS
Meetings are held Fridays at 7.30 p.m. at St Aubyn's School, Blundells Road, Tiverton.

WEST DIDSBURY AS
Meets 7.00 - 9.00 pm on usually 2nd Monday in the month (except July and August) at City College Manchester, Fielden Campus, 141 Barlow Moor Rd, West Didsbury, Manchester M290 2PQ. Contact Phil Brocklebank (0161 973 5323) or Lionel Cox (07850 426234).

WEST LONDON 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. Contact Hazel on 07944 751277

YORK AS
Meetings are held the in the Danham Room, The Priory Street Centre, York, Meetings start at 7.30 for 8pm. Members £1.00 Non-members £2. Children under 16 are free. Contact Hazel on 07944 751277

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FAS Website
As you may have noticed the FAS website looks different these days. Over the past 6 months or so we have changed the look, location and accessibility of the site.

The location of the website has moved from our old provider FreeServe to Force9. The Force9 service allows us to host both our static and new dynamic pages on one provider. Force9 also give us more email addresses to use, so all council members now have a dedicated FAS email address each.

The static pages have been updated & revamped. Our dynamic pages are generated from a database and allow member societies to submit diary & event items to the FAS for publication on the website. These dynamic pages also make the administration of society data easier.

When submitting information for events please include the post-code of the event location as this can make finding the event easier for your visitors.

The all the pages on the website have been checked against the HTML standards and registered with ICRA and SurfSafe, 2 of the internet rating organisations.
LIST OF OFFICERS 2003/2004

President: Ron Kelley
Vice President: Malcolm Jones
Secretary: Clive Down,
Treasurer: Peter Cooke,
PLI Secretary: Eric Hutton,
Membership Sec.: Shaun O'Dell,
Newsletter Editor: Callum Potter
Handbook Editor: John Parratt
Education Secretary: VACANT
Meetings Organiser : Stan Waterman

Publicity Officer: Samuel George
Slide Librarian: Bob Dryden
Website Coordinator: Gary Gawthrope

Chilterns Group : Ian Coulson
North West Group : Richard Sargent
West Midlands : Andy Salmon
Yorkshire Group : Paul Harper
Devon Group : John Parratt
East Anglia Group : VACANT
SAGAS Rep: VACANT

FAS Publications
The FAS 'Astrocalendar 2003-2004' is now available.

Discounts for quantity purchases, pricing details are available at:
http://www.fedastro.org.uk/publications/members_prices.html

Members Prices:
Astrocalendar 2003/4 £1.60 + A5 SAE with 34p stamps
Observational Astronomy £2.00 + A5 SAE with 34p stamps
Using a Telescope £1.80 + A5 SAE with 34p stamps
Step by Step £1.30 + A5 SAE with 28p stamps
Astrophotography £0.60 + A5 SAE with 28p stamps
Choosing a Telescope or Binoculars £3.50 + A5 SAE with 69p stamps

(issued Dec. 2002 - Every paid-up FAS Member Society gets a copy free)

Queries are usually easier via e-mail to the Publications Secretary:
publications@fedastro.org.uk

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Update to FAS Public Liability Insurance terms
The current FAS Public Liability Insurance now has a £500 excess on 3rd party property claims not the £250 mentioned to societies on the verification of insurance letter sent out to member societies.

Eric Hutton, PLI Secretary.

Deadline for submission for next newsletter (Autumn 2004) is 15th August 2004

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

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