

FAS Newsletter

Federation of Astronomical Societies

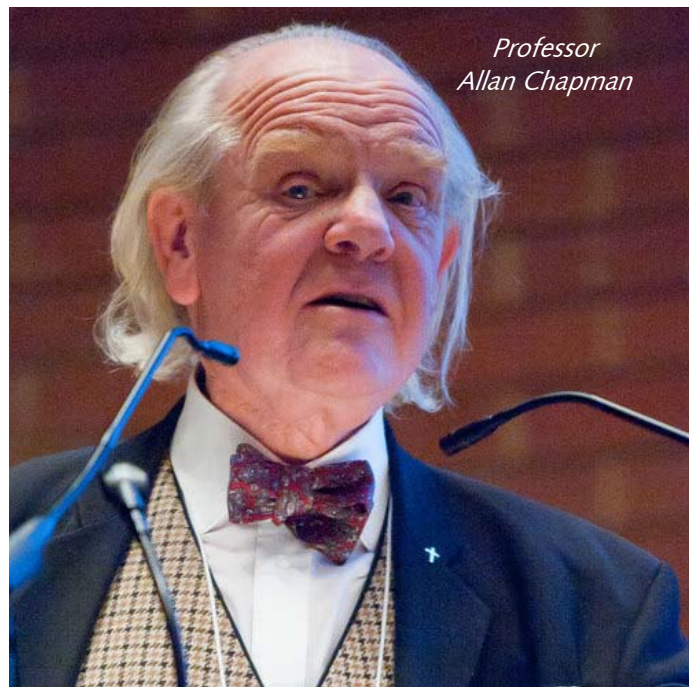
<http://www.fedastro.org.uk>

FAS Annual Convention Birmingham University Saturday October 24th



Programme

- 9.30: Welcome and Introduction
- 9.40: Stellar Birth, the first 10Myr - Darryl Sergison
- 10.40: Break
- 11.00: Gravitational lensing or how to detect and measure the warps of space-time -
Prof. David Valls-Gabaud
- 12.00: Lunch
- 13.00: Einstein's Universe - *Prof. Martin Hendry*
- 14.00: FAS AGM
- 15.00: Break
- 15.30: TBA - *Early Career Researcher*
- 16.00: Break
- 16.30: TBA - *Prof. Allan Chapman*
- 17.30: Closing Remarks



*Professor
Allan Chapman*

Following on from the success of last year, the FAS Convention and AGM will take place at the University of Birmingham on October 24th. Tea and coffee will be available before the day starts at 0930, and after a welcome and introductions the first talk will be given by Darryl Sergison on Stellar Birth, which will cover much of the work he undertook during his recent time at Exeter Uni. Other talks will be given by Professors: David Valls-Gabaud, Martin Hendry and Allan Chapman. In addition there will be a presentation by an Early Career Researcher from Birmingham Uni.

The AGM will take place in the early afternoon and should not be overly long, but will cover those aspects of the operation of the FAS of particular interest to member societies.

In addition there will be a number of trade stands to take your interest whilst having a break from the talks.

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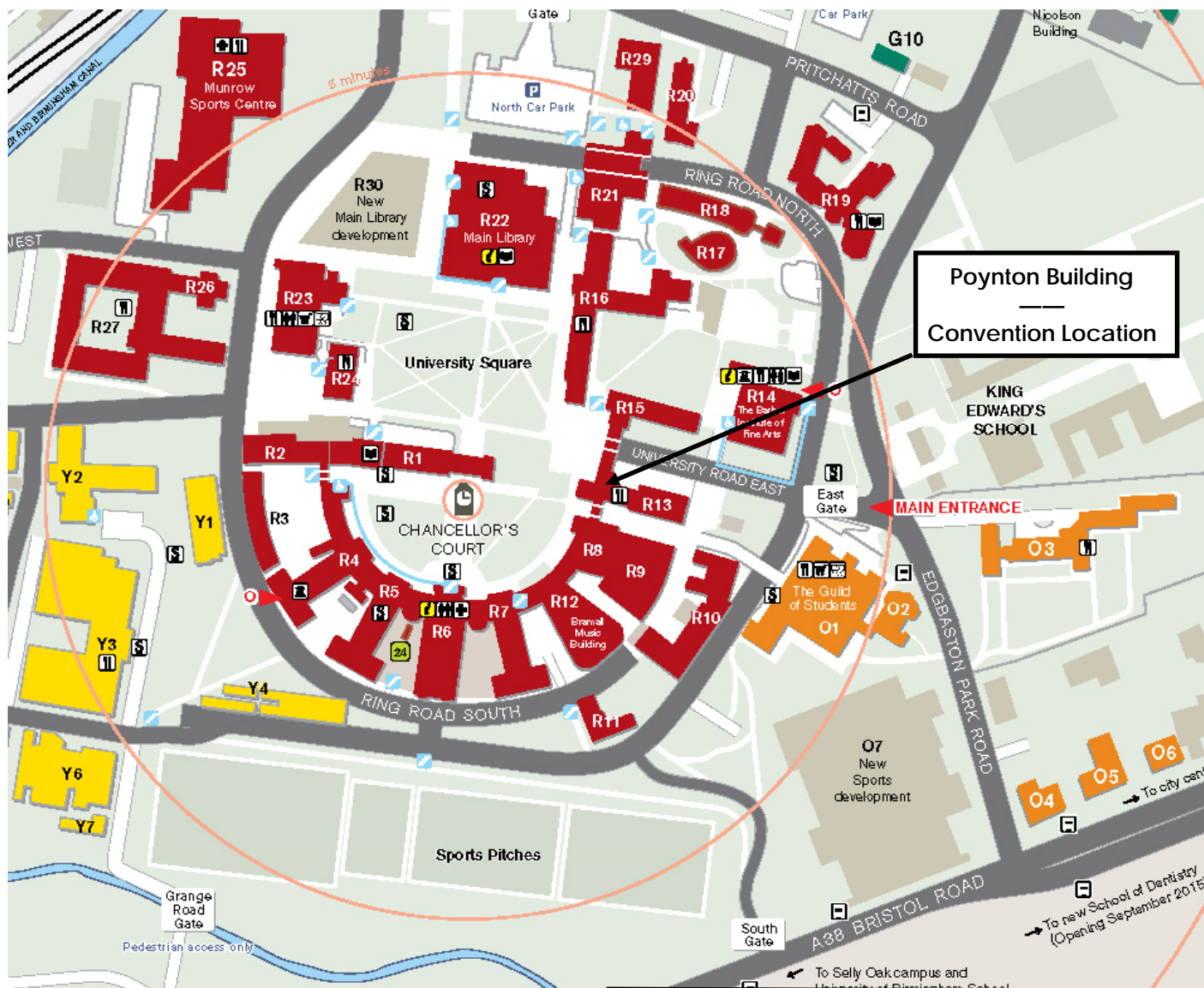


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FAS Astro Calendar

In Issue 108, I indicated that the future of the very popular FAS publication, The Astrocalendar was in doubt. I am pleased to be able to report that the appeal made in that Newsletter has had a positive result.

William Robarts, of the Huddersfield Astronomical and Philosophical Society has volunteered to step into the breach and produce the data.

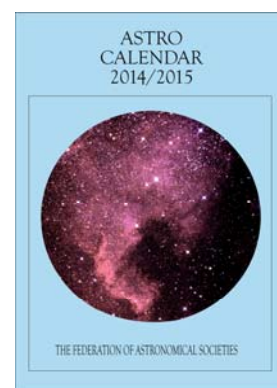
This information will then be compiled into the final document.

It is likely that the format will change a little as a different person will approach the subject with a fresh view.

Rest assured, the publication will be as good as before and hopefully a little better.

The Council of the FAS would like to thank William for stepping up to the plate to help all our fellow amateur astronomers in this way.

Editor



Short Newsletter!

I would like to apologise to all readers for the reduced number of pages in this issue. Unfortunately events have conspired against me since the last issue.

Perhaps I ought to write out 100 time "must do better next time"!!

Frank

(Continued from page 1)

There are a number of small shops nearby where refreshments will be available, but of course bringing packed lunch is always a useful option.

The convention venue is the Poynting Physics Building, which is indicated on the map above. There is ample free parking in the area of the Poynting Building.

For those who wish to attend via public transport, there are excellent directions given on the Birmingham University website.

For the link go to:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/directions/getting-here-edgbaston.aspx>

Entry for the convention is £5 for members of member societies and £7 for non-members.

Tickets can be pre-ordered via the FAS website or can be obtained at the door on the morning of the event.

The list of speakers is impressive and if you have never experienced Allan Chapman live before then you are in for a treat.

LETTERS

Hi Frank,

I wonder if you might be able to help me with the identification of an astronomical society.

They are down in our database as I C T Astronomical Society (or I.C.T. AS) which I cannot trace anywhere. The trouble is the date of the observations is 1967-8. The observations also carry the remark "RGC" and another with "GC" implying that these were the observers initials of the observations concerned.

Any light you could throw on this will be greatly appreciated.

Cheers,
Roger

If any reader can throw any light on this please let me know and I will inform Roger: -

Editor

FAS HANDBOOK SPEAKERS LIST

One of the most useful aspects of the Handbook produced annually and supplied to every member society is the Speakers List. As most of you will know, this list is an essential tool for societies when compiling their programme of speakers.

If you would give talks and are prepared to travel to other societies to share one or more of these talks then why not get your name on the list.

If you are interested, please email me with the following details:

- Name
- Contact details - email address is important
- List of topics, where appropriate
- Distance you are prepared to travel
- Any other conditions

I am in course of gathering data for the next issue of the handbook, so I would need your input before and July to be sure of getting an entry.

Frank Johns
frankjohns@btinternet.com

North West Astronomy Festival 2015 – Chris Banks

The weekend of 27th and 28th June saw the latest in the series of North West Astronomy Shows. The event, organised by Andrew and Sue Davies of the Knowledge Observatory, was held at the Heath Business and Technical Park in Runcorn.

Local societies were represented by Liverpool, Blackpool and Macclesfield AS.

The LAS had very recently acquired a set of A0 posters courtesy of Daresbury Laboratory and these were put to use as the backdrop to our stand in the main hall.

The City of Liverpool was also represented by a stand from The Liverpool World Museum.

As well as the trade stands, displays and help desks in the main hall the event featured a series of talks given by well known speakers such as Damian Peach, Will Gater, Mark Thompson and Nick Howes.

Also present were a number of trade stalls, including Tring Astronomy Centre, Astronomy Now and Sky at Night Magazines.



The event was a real success and next year's dates have now been set. Make a note in your diaries for of 1st, 2nd and 3rd July 2016.

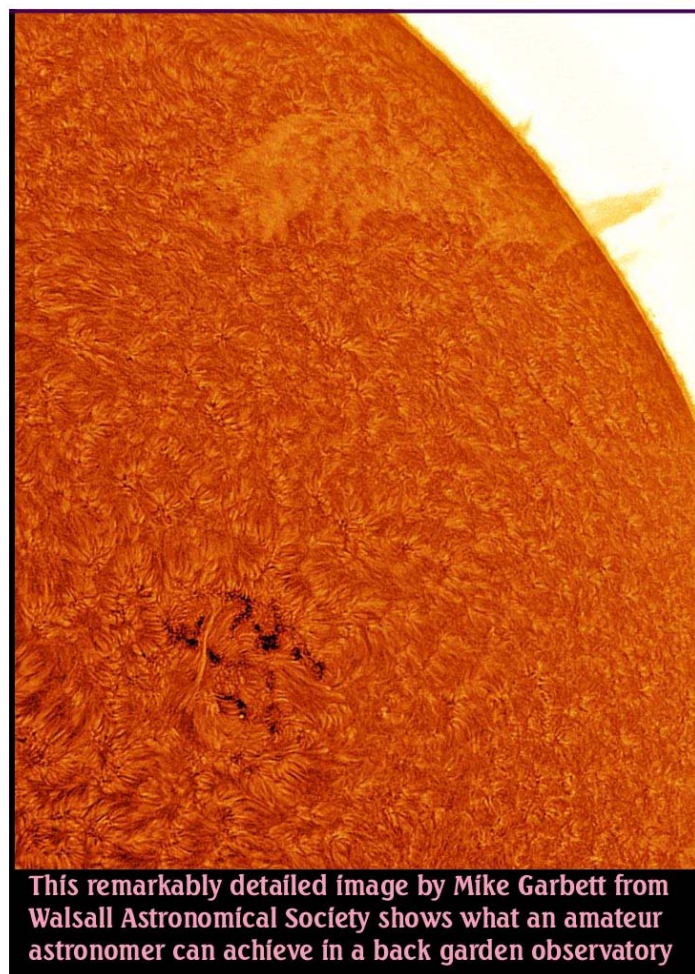
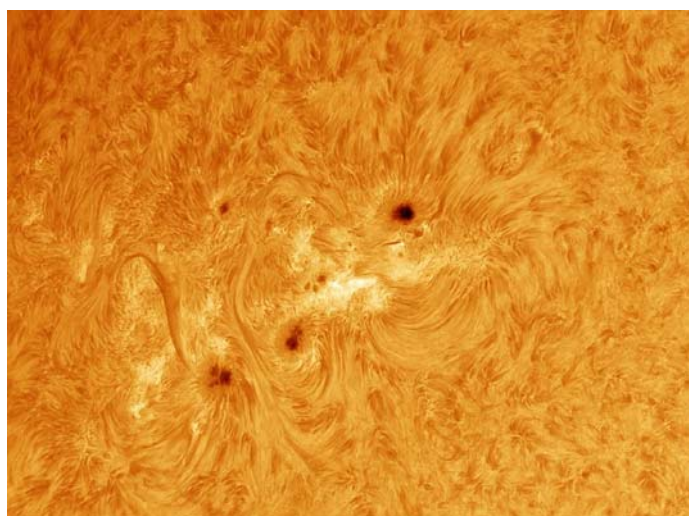
Courtesy: LAS Newsletter



Walsall Astronomical Society Sun-Day Public Event

Back in March Walsall Astro hosted a public solar eclipse meet on top of Barr Beacon, a local beauty spot, which attracted over four hundred people, more than a dozen club members turned up with half a dozen telescopes, white light and H. Alpha, as well as cameras and monitors showing live views, we gave away a hundred pairs of eclipse viewers and even had a caravan with a large screen TV to watch the Totality broadcast live by the BBC. The local TV station was on hand to see the event and interview some observers.

Following this great success we decided to celebrate International Sun – Day in a similar manner, this time in Walsall Arboretum next to the boating lake and the newly opened visitor's centre.



The weather forecast was solid cloud all day with rain later but we had plastered the area with posters so went ahead anyway, this time with four telescopes and a large information display covered in pictures including some taken by club members and lots of child friendly infoposters. We even had piles of astro related colouring sheets and crayons.

Despite the poor forecast there were lots of holes in the clouds giving about 15 minutes of observing per hour and the sun obliged with a big hedgerow prominence and a clear horseshoe loop, there was a large active region in the centre of the disc which we suggested might cause aurora and sure enough 36 hours later there were violet Northern Light streaks seen from the midlands.

All in all a good day, over two hundred visitors, we were there from 9am to about 5pm and it started spitting rain just as the last car was loaded, we will definitely do it again after an August Meteor Watch, a September Lunar eclipse and a May Mercury Transit all on top of our wonderful Barr Beacon

Alan Ledbury, 22 June 2015,
alan@walsallastro.co.uk

Photo credits: Mike Garbett

