

# Federation of Astronomical Societies



Editor: Michael Bryce  
Chair: Carolian Astronomy Society  
Member: Bromsgrove Astronomical Society

# Newsletter

[fedastro.org.uk](http://fedastro.org.uk)

No 124: December 2021

*Note: The FAS Council Reserves the Right to publish articles, events and reports submitted to the FAS Newsletter*

## President's Spot: Dr Paul A. Daniels FRAS



As I write this, the FAS Convention at the National Space Centre (NSC) is a warm memory from last weekend. We had really good attendance with people taking care over Covid precautions when moving around. There was a wonderful Planetarium show at the start of the day, arrival drinks, four great speakers, a sandwich lunch and good display tables around the back of the venue room.

Particular thanks for the organisation go to Jerry Stone, FAS

Meetings Organiser, to the staff of the NSC for their support, to the speakers for their talks and also to the BAA for their welcome sponsorship of the day.

*Image Right: FAS Meetings Secretary Jerry Stone*

*Image Below: The FAS Convention Audience Images by William Bottaci*



**President**  
Dr Paul A Daniels  
Rose Hill  
High Green, Bradenham  
Thetford, Norfolk  
IP25 7RD  
[president@fedastro.org.uk](mailto:president@fedastro.org.uk)  
07802 324 697

**Treasurer**  
Pat McEvoy  
17 Severn Close  
Paulsgrove  
Portsmouth  
PO6 4BB  
[treasurer@fedastro.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@fedastro.org.uk)



**Secretary**  
Richard Stebbing  
01372 750 644  
[secretary@fedastro.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fedastro.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Michael Bryce  
58 Park Road  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 3QX  
[newsletter@fedastro.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@fedastro.org.uk)  
07821 896 304

We have another in-person event planned for next year, in Oxford (exact date and venue still to be decided). The theme of the day will be *Women in Astronomy*. Speakers to be announced.

You may recall from my FAS Newsletters [#118v2](#) & [#123](#) and my talks to societies that I've got a deep concern over the growth of satellite megaconstellations and their impact on astronomy. I attended the UNOOSA (UN Office for Outer Space Affairs) Dark & Quiet Skies online conference a few weeks ago representing the FAS. During discussion after one of the days' talks, it was stated that it was necessary to ensure that young astronomers were made aware of the growing problem that they'd have to deal with in their hobby or career. I feel that the FAS is in a good position to arrange this so I approached the FAS Council with a proposal for an FAS organised international, two-day webinar conference aimed at interested amateurs, undergraduates studying astronomy and early-career postgraduates. Unlike conferences like SATCON2 and Dark & Quiet Skies, where the professionals talk to *each other* to discuss the latest analyses, develop mitigation strategies and formulate policy, this will be professionals explaining the growing problem to the target attendees and the mitigation approaches being trialled. There'll be plenty of opportunities for attendees to ask questions of the speakers and to sign-up to contribute to the work being done.

On the same subject there's been another meeting of the UK Megaconstellation Satellite Observing Project (UKMSOP) formed from a collaboration of the FAS/BAA/SPA & RAS. We're hoping to be able to come back to you early in the New Year with details of how and where you can submit your damaged satellite images and satellite observations.

Finally, but no less exciting, the FAS have teamed up with the [Go Stargazing](#) website run by Neill Sanders. *Go Stargazing* was initially set up by Neill to list upcoming observing events open to the public and members of other societies. The preference was that the societies update their own list of events but Neill also entered some events into the website himself. When the pandemic came along and the outdoor events stopped Neill started to include some of the online lecture meetings being organised by societies and these listings are now likely to become a permanent feature of the website.

Societies can register themselves with the website and advertise their events (outreach and lectures) for free and can also register to receive a regular emailed list of upcoming events. Neill has demonstrated to us working versions of free Android and Apple iOS apps for your smartphone that can provide a list of upcoming events; check out his website for their availability. Neill is appealing for some helpers to add material to the site – please contact him if you can help. The work is being paid for by B&Bs, hotels, *etc*, local to events advertising on his site so that, as well as locating an event you may wish to attend, there will also be some links to local accommodation. You can see a feed from Neill's website on the FAS website at [www.fedastro.org.uk](http://www.fedastro.org.uk).

Stay safe and clear skies  
Paul

[president@fedastro.org.uk](mailto:president@fedastro.org.uk)

## Total Eclipse of the Sun From a Different Perspective



Image left:

**4 December 2021:**

Saturday morning, the International Space Station Expedition 66 crew squeezed into the Cupola to check out the total solar eclipse that occurred over Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. Here the moon casts an oblong shadow on the Earth's surface. It was an incredible sight to behold.

Image Credit:

Photo by NASA Astronaut Tom Marshburn with text by NASA Astronaut Kayla Barron via Facebook

# Society for the History of Astronomy



The Society for the History of Astronomy

**Online Zoom® Webinar**

**“Walcher of Malvern and the Twelfth-Century Renaissance of Medieval Astronomy”**



**Dr Phiipp Nothaft**  
**Research Fellow**

*Trinity College Dublin.*



*Walcher of Malvern, who was born in Lorraine and died in 1135 in Worcestershire, is one of the earliest known European astronomers to engage in serious observational work and to test theories on an empirical basis. He made these observations at a time when Latin Christian scholars were about to move from an indigenous form of astronomy known as 'computus naturalis' toward the assimilation of mathematical astronomy in the Graeco-Arabic tradition. In Phiipp's talk, he will discuss the ways in which Walcher's astronomical work helps us understand how and why this crucial transition occurred and why it matters to the history of science.*

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 8pm UK time**

*Places are limited. For Zoom link details and to register*

*Please contact:- [meetings@shastro.org.uk](mailto:meetings@shastro.org.uk)*

*Images: courtesy of brepols.net & Getty Images*

# FAS Autumn Convention 2021

By Jerry Stone

## Astronomy Activities and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruption to so much of mankind's activities, but in some ways, astronomy has managed to continue to a greater extent than many others.

Astronomers, working alone or in small groups, have been able to continue their observing, and society meetings have taken place online.

Historically, the FAS held its AGM as part of a public convention, but was unable to do so in 2021, and so the AGM was held as a stand-alone online event, when Jerry Stone was elected the new Meetings Organiser. Jerry has worked in this role at local societies for around 15 years.

## April 2021 convention

The FAS still wanted to hold a full convention and it was agreed to do this online as well, and this was arranged for the afternoon of Saturday 17 April, 2021. It featured four high-profile speakers, and was sponsored by The BBC sky at Night Magazine, The Royal Astronomical Society and The Widescreen Centre.

The first speaker was no less than the Astronomer Royal, Lord Martin Rees, whose talk was entitled "From Mars to the Multiverse". He was followed by Greg Smye-Rumsby, speaking about eclipses, ahead of the UK's partial solar eclipse on June 10.

After a break, Nik Szymanek gave "An Overview of Deep-Sky Imaging", with some of his magnificent images. He was followed by George Tahu, the Lead Program Manager for Mars2020. He spoke to

us from Washington, D.C., telling all about "Perseverance for Discovery: NASA's Mars Exploration Program", just 8 weeks after its landing on the Red Planet.

During the break, a collection was shown of many of David Hardy's excellent astronomical paintings.

## November 2021 Live Convention

With the success of the event, the Council wanted to hold an in-person event as soon as practically possible, and with the relaxation in the regulations that came in during June, plans moved into high gear.

We appreciated that some people would be hesitant to go to a public event, so we made it clear that everyone would have to show proof of vaccination or exemption, and not to attend if they showed any symptoms on the day. There were also asked to wear masks on arrival and when moving around, but could remove them when seated in they wished.

To attract people to attend, we picked the National Space Centre as the venue, and arranged for attendees to be able to tour the NSC galleries at no charge after our event. Other incentives included a sandwich lunch included in the £10 ticket price, free parking (normally £3) and a free planetarium show. As an extra incentive, the event was not live-streamed - if you wanted to hear the speaker, you would have to be there.

The speakers were all introduced by FAS President Paul Daniels. The first speaker was Suzie Imber, familiar to many as the winner of the BBC's Astronaut competition. She is a co-investigator on the X-ray





**Image Page 4:** Ann Bonell by William Bottaci.  
**Images this page:** clockwise from top left: Julian Onions by William Bottaci; Matt Nicholl by Jerry Stone; BAA by Jerry Stone; and Suzie Imber by Jerry Stone



spectrometer on the BepiColombo spacecraft, which had made its first Mercury flyby just 12 weeks before.

Matt Nicholl spoke about gravitational waves. He leads a research group at the University of Birmingham studying the extreme stellar phenomena in the Universe.

Ann Bonell is President of the Leicester Astronomical Society, and she examined the lives and contributions of the Astronomers Royal.

Julian Onions concluded the day with a look at the history and evidence for dark matter, to answer the intriguing questions of whether it is dark, and is it matter!

There was also a raffle, a display from Leicester Astronomical Society, and a huge number of 2nd-hand books on offer from The Society for the History of Astronomy. There was also a display from the event's Gold Sponsor - The British Astronomical Association - and new BAA President David Arditti gave a presentation during the lunch break. Following this, Jerry presented a fun quiz, in which it was possible to become a winner without actually knowing any of the answers!

Overall, just under 100 people were present and everyone said how much they enjoyed it. This was the first national in-person astronomical event since 2019.

As things turned out, we were extremely lucky with the timing, as the arrival of the Omicron variant of COVID is resulting in greater precautions being taken with regard to public events.

## Future Events

With the success of our convention at the National Space Centre, we are planning other events, both online and in person. Here's what we have at present:

### Pro-Am Webinar - Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April

A 1-day online event, looking at the various ways in which professional and amateur astronomers can and do work together.

### Megaconstellations Webinar - Saturday & Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> May

The launch of thousands of small satellites for communications purposes may create amazing views in the night sky, but they also create a major problem when it comes to astrophotography. This new type of sky pollution is already causing a major impact in astronomy.

This 2-day online event will look at the problem and what can be done about it.

### Women in Astronomy - Date and venue to be announced

Our next in-person convention will look at some of the contributions made in the field of astronomy by women in the past and present. This 1-day event will feature presentations from some of the foremost women in the field.

*Please note that this event was originally planned for 12<sup>th</sup> March, but we have moved it to later in the year because of the current uncertainties over COVID-19.*

If you would like to give a presentation at one of our events then please contact me.

All this is leading up to 2024 - our **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** - which will be celebrated with activities across the UK.

**Jerry Stone (Meetings Organiser)**  
[meetings@fedastro.org.uk](mailto:meetings@fedastro.org.uk)



# FAS to Partner with Go Stargazing

In November 2021, the FAS Council agreed to partner with the stargazing events and stargazing destinations website, [gostargazing.co.uk](http://gostargazing.co.uk).

Created by North-East outreach astronomer Neill Sanders (and friends) on a not-for-profit basis, the Go Stargazing website attracts over 40,000 visitors per month and has a large social media following.

Go Stargazing aims to encourage public interest by helping people find astronomy-related events near them, including observatory open evenings, society and club meetings, observing sessions, outreach events and events run by independent astronomers.

A free mobile app will soon be available to raise further awareness of the activities of the UK astronomy community, reaching a wider audience and hopefully inspiring more people to get involved.

Go Stargazing is a keen supporter of grassroots astronomy in the UK and thus makes for an ideal partner with FAS. The partnership will involve Go Stargazing sharing data, software platforms and technologies to help FAS publicise their members' events.

Neill Sanders said, "I'm delighted to officially partner with FAS to support the fantastic astronomy community we have in the UK. Since the pandemic, there has been a considerable surge in interest, and I'm keen to help societies and clubs attract new members."

Go Stargazing would like to invite volunteers to help keep its website up to date by keeping a lookout for events in their area and notifying Go Stargazing accordingly.

In addition, FAS member organisations can support this partnership by informing Go Stargazing of forthcoming meetings and outreach events, including adding events directly to the Go Stargazing website.

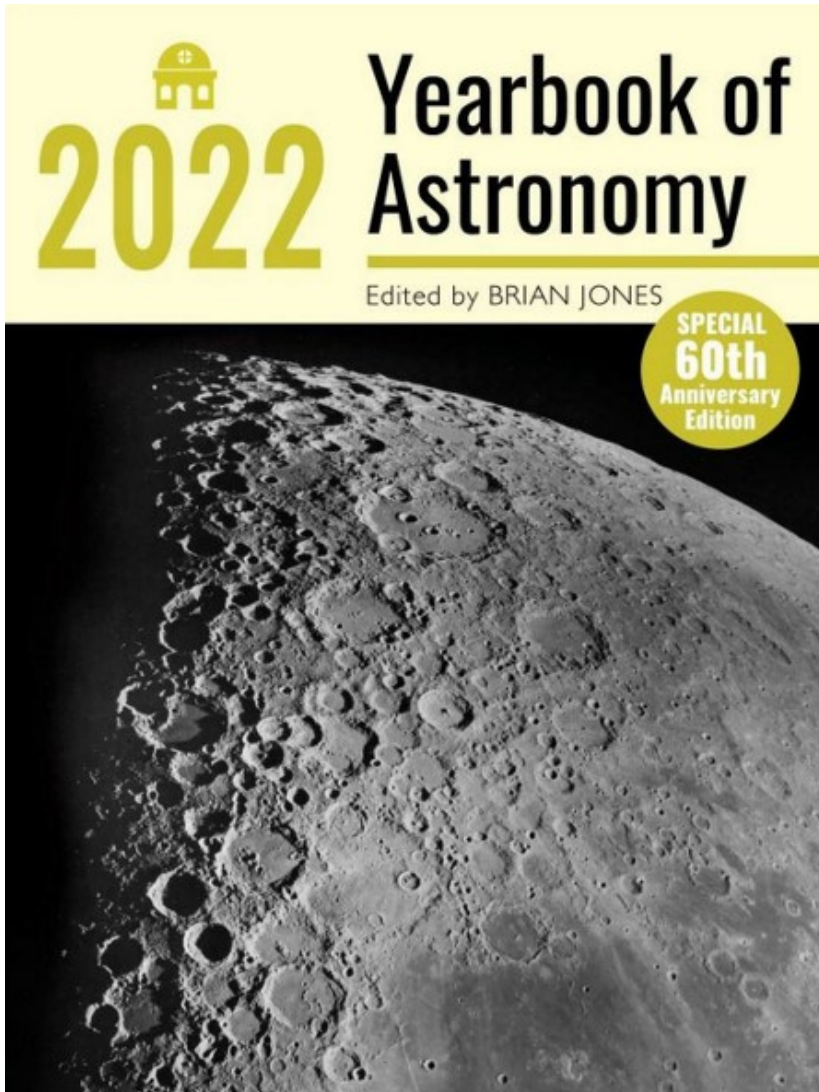
For more details please email [neill@gostargazing.co.uk](mailto:neill@gostargazing.co.uk).

**Neill Sanders**  
Go Star Gazing



[gostargazing.co.uk](http://gostargazing.co.uk)

# 2022 Yearbook of Astronomy



The **Yearbook of Astronomy 2022** is the Diamond Jubilee edition of this iconic publication, the annual appearance of which has been eagerly anticipated by astronomers, both amateur and professional, ever since this invaluable book first appeared in 1962. As the preface to the 1962 edition informed its readers, the post-war years had seen a tremendous growth of interest in astronomy and space research. Doubtless fuelled by the dawn of the Space Age, the launch of Sputnik 1 in October 1957 marked a significant change in the course of history. This epoch-making event, coupled with the subsequent flights of Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin (April 1961) and American astronaut Alan Shepard (May 1961), served to engender a public interest in astronomy and space that has continued to grow and expand to this day.

Maintaining its appealing style and presentation, the **Yearbook of Astronomy 2022** contains comprehensive jargon-free monthly sky notes and an authoritative set of sky charts to enable backyard astronomers and sky gazers everywhere to plan their viewing of the year's eclipses, comets, meteor showers and minor planets as well as detailing the phases of the Moon and visibility and locations of the planets throughout the year. To supplement all this is a variety of entertaining and informative articles, a feature for which the **Yearbook of Astronomy** is known.

The **Yearbook of Astronomy 2022** continues to be essential reading for anyone lured and fascinated by the magic of astronomy. It remains an inspiration to amateur and professional astronomers alike, and warrants a place on the bookshelf of all stargazers and watchers of the Universe.

Bursting with up-to-the-minute information, the **Yearbook of Astronomy 2022** is, as ever, essential reading for anyone fascinated by the night sky.

**Yearbook of Astronomy 2022** was released on 30 October 2021. It can be ordered directly from the publisher [Pen & Sword Books Limited](http://Pen & Sword Books Limited). It is also available at [Amazon](http://Amazon) and at other online book retailers.



[yearbookofastronomy.com](http://yearbookofastronomy.com)

# Invisible Telescopes and Endless White Domes

## Orpington Astronomical Society

Visitors to St Francis Hall in Petts Wood on the afternoon of 16 October were met by a profusion of astronomical experiences. The booths and displays included evidence of the many visits and triumphs of the Orpington Astronomical Society during the forty years of its existence. More than this, however, the extraordinary success of the Society was clearly based on the friendship and camaraderie of the membership, which was much in evidence on the day.

Amongst the exhibits were the beautiful 100-year-old Dolland refractor painstakingly rebuilt by Roberto Botero, its brass shining brightly. No fewer than four screens of continuously changing images of celestial objects taken by members took up one corner of the hall, while the main screen scrolled through pictures of members' sky parties and visits to major installations across the western world. Raf Kaminski's display included both his very practical Dobsonian, together with a cherished kit from 1970's Eastern Europe to enable assembly of a variety of telescopes.

A specially commissioned design (by Jules Phoenix) to commemorate the event was displayed, and later appeared on the cake cut by our President, Greg Smye-Rumsby, accompanied by fiery candles. Members who attended were given a mug bearing the design.

Greg engaged the audience with tales of the past exploits of the Society. It appeared that major efforts were made in its early days to track down "invisible telescopes" – foundations for major instruments scattered across London. Mystified archaeologists were pressed into helping, and bystanders watched bemused as coachloads of members dismounted to view...nothing. Greg paid tribute to the founding members, including especially Gilbert Satterthwaite, our first Chair.

Greg introduced Pieter Morpurgo, producer of *The Sky at Night* for 20 years – the Patrick Moore Years. As Pieter's address unfolded it rapidly became clear that he had been present to capture many of the great developments in astronomy and space exploration that had taken place during the existence of the Society. Complemented by arresting slides, Pieter reeled off a string of anecdotes about the programme-maker's achievements - and the challenges he had to overcome. Amongst the latter were the disappearance of Sir Patrick's only clean shirts before a broadcast and the fact that so many of the ground-breaking developments in astronomy had been made by telescopes "in rather similar-looking white domes on the tops of mountains". Eager to introduce some variety to the images of these, he related how he had made trips into the bush to capture a shot or two of an actual Australian kangaroo, and of the film crew hanging off the side of a small aircraft to film overhead views of a new telescope in remote Chile.

The history of the Society was explored on a pair of stands including an early issue of our magazine, *TOAST* and press cuttings about the Society. The Society's successful Outreach programme was illustrated on a stand with images of events and models of telescopes and the lunar lander. A rare roller scope was exhibited by our President, together with photos of a Dobsonian personally built by Julian Tworek.

**Acknowledgements:** The Anniversary celebrations were made possible by a large number of members, but in particular Sue Peters, who chaired the organising panel and brought it all together.



**Image Right:**  
Pieter in front of  
OAS Banner

**Image Left:**  
Roberto with  
restored Dolland  
refractor.



[orpington-astronomy.org.uk](http://orpington-astronomy.org.uk)



# Sherwood Observatory hosts UK Meteor Detection Beacon & Data Centre and Plans a State of the Art Modern Planetarium

Sherwood Observatory, owned and occupied by the Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society, near Mansfield in north Nottinghamshire, has linked up with the radio amateur community led by Brian Coleman to create the United Kingdom's first meteor detection beacon supplementing existing transmitters at Dourbes in southern Belgium (BRAMS) and GRAVES in eastern France (see map below).

The collaboration is well advanced awaiting purchase of the materials to construct the transmitter once Ofcom approval has been granted some time in quarter 2 or 3 of 2022.

Any astronomical society, or person, that is actively, or interested in being involved in, collecting meteor data is welcome to participate in the project by collecting information and passing it to the proposed central data centre, preferably in real time via the internet. To

register interest please contact Nigel Cunningham ([radio@sherwood-observatory.org.uk](mailto:radio@sherwood-observatory.org.uk)) in the first instance who will contact you in due course as arrangements crystallise.

You can watch this YouTube video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI0xv2y3dOo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI0xv2y3dOo) of Brian's presentation to the Society of the project's technical details at our first post-covid lecturer present meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

## Planetarium

Sherwood Observatory is also planning a 10m, 60 seater Planetarium and Science Centre for Sutton/Kirkby in Ashfield. Estimate for building and equipping £5.25M, with £2.25M promised from local government "levelling up" funds. Local business and academic societies are welcome to donate!



*Meteor Beacon Text and images courtesy Neil Mudford*

*Planetarium text and image courtesy Richard Field via Facebook.com.*

[sherwood-observatory.org.uk](https://sherwood-observatory.org.uk)

## National Schools' Observatory Work Experience 2022 Applications Open



Each summer the Astrophysics Research Institute (home to the NSO) welcomes students from school years 12 and 13 (or equivalent), for a week-long work experience programme. The week consists of talks and workshops, and gives students an idea of how professional research is done at a university.

**We will be running our 2022 work experience week from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

The 2022 work experience week is open to students from the UK and Ireland who can attend at our Liverpool City Centre offices for the whole week. You must provide your own travel, food, and accommodation, however, there is no charge for the work experience week itself. Several travel and accommodation scholarships are available.

### Applications

The application form is now open and will close on Thursday 31st March 2022 (applications received after this date will not be considered). If you have any questions please email [nso@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:nso@ljmu.ac.uk) and we will get back to you during normal office hours.

### Travel and Accommodation Scholarships

We are pleased to announce that the University is able to fund several travel and accommodation scholarships for students to attend the week. This will cover transport costs, shared accommodation in Liverpool (with on site support over night), and meal vouchers for the week.

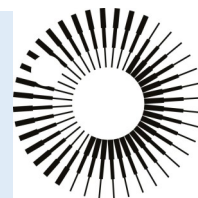
Students will be considered for scholarships if they fit any of the following criteria and indicate in their application that they would like to be considered for a scholarship:

- Student from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background
- Student who is a care leaver or currently a looked after child/young adult
- Students who are young adult carers
- Students with a disability
- Student who will be the first in their family to go to University/Higher Education

For full details please visit:

[schoolsobservatory.org/news/2021/work-experience-2022-applications-open](https://schoolsobservatory.org/news/2021/work-experience-2022-applications-open)

## The Royal Astronomical Society GCSE Poster Competition 2022



Royal  
Astronomical  
Society

**The Royal Astronomical Society GCSE Poster Competition 2022 – Sponsored by Winton is running**

The competition is open to students currently studying GCSE Astronomy and the deadline for submissions is 14 February 2022.

Winners will receive book token prizes of 1st = £100, 2nd = £50, 3rd = £25.

Full details can be found on our website:

[ras.ac.uk/news-and-press/news/ras-gcse-astronomy-poster-competition-2022-sponsored-winton](https://ras.ac.uk/news-and-press/news/ras-gcse-astronomy-poster-competition-2022-sponsored-winton)

If you have any queries please email Nush Cole at [ncole@ras.ac.uk](mailto:ncole@ras.ac.uk)

# Mid-Kent Astronomical Society

## 2022 Events

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

### **Harry Cliff - The Standard Model and Possible new Physics**

**Virtual presentation by Zoom.**

**Join from 19:45 onwards**

Astrophysicists think they understand the laws of physics as they apply on the grand scale. Similarly, particle physicists have a Standard Model to explain how physics works at the macro level. There is still no "single theory of everything". In this talk Harry will tell us about the Standard Model, how it has evolved over the years and what further research is being conducted.

**Non-members can participate for a nominal donation of £3.**

Please contact [membersec@midkentastro.org.uk](mailto:membersec@midkentastro.org.uk) at least 36 hours before the event.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

### **Colin Stuart - Time in Einstein's Universe**

**Virtual presentation by Zoom**

**Join from 19:45 onwards**

It can be wasted and killed. Spent and saved. Kept and lost. Time is one of life's most perplexing mysteries. In the century since Einstein turned our ideas about time upside down, we know more about it than we ever have, but big questions remain. Can you go back and kill Hitler? What happens to time inside a black hole? Does time even really exist? Find out our latest thinking in this journey through Einstein's universe, during which you'll meet the greatest time traveller in human history and take part in a real time travel experiment.

**Non-members can participate for a nominal donation of £3.**

Please contact [membersec@midkentastro.org.uk](mailto:membersec@midkentastro.org.uk) at least 36 hours before the event.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### **MKAS Tribute night to Peter Parish and Christopher Sherwood**

**In person at Bredhurst Village Hall**

Tonight, we pay tribute to the contributions to MKAS by Peter Parish and Chris Sherwood, who both sadly passed away in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### **Paul Money – Why Are There no Green Stars?**

**Virtual presentation by Zoom with possible hybrid meeting at Bredhurst Village Hall.**

**Join from 19:45 onwards**

**Non-members can participate for a nominal donation of £3.**

Please contact [membersec@midkentastro.org.uk](mailto:membersec@midkentastro.org.uk) at least 36 hours before the event.

Programme is subject to change/alteration please visit our website:

[midkentastro.org.uk/events](http://midkentastro.org.uk/events)

# Yearbook of Astronomy Convention

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022

On **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022** the famous **Yearbook of Astronomy** will hold its first ever Convention. The event will take place at:

**The Idle and Thackley Conservative Club**

Idle

Bradford

West Riding of Yorkshire

BD10 8PY

a venue which has excellent facilities – including a licensed bar.

### Speakers include:

**David Harper** *The Meandering Moon and the Calendar*

Many ancient calendars were based on the phases of the Moon. Lunar cycles still govern the lives of billions of people. In this talk, we explore the role of the Moon in the major religious calendars of the world.

**Mary McIntyre** *Ladies of the Night: Female Astronomers Before and Including Caroline Herschel*

We often hear that Caroline Herschel was the first female astronomer, but we can trace back female involvement in astronomy much further back in history. This talk tells their story.

**Peter Rea** *How it Began: The Origins of Solar System Exploration - 1961 to 1981*

In this talk Peter will discuss the origins of solar system exploration by the USA and what was then the USSR. The talk focuses on the period 1961 to 1981 – when we were able to view the planets up close for the first time – and was inspired by the words of Oran W. Nick, NASA's Director of Lunar and Planetary Programs in the early 1960s, following the successful Mariner 2 mission to Venus in 1962: "There will be other missions to the planets, but there will never be another first mission to them."

**Rod Hine** *Radio Astronomy Around the World*

The last decade has seen a great rise in the number and scope of projects in radio astronomy and a number of major observatories, mostly with arrays of many antennas, have been built or are being built in diverse locations. Observations have reached for ever-shorter wavelengths and ever more sensitivity. Major collaborations using Very Long Baseline Interferometry have resulted in observations of exquisite detail of phenomena such as black holes. In addition, the study of radio astronomy in developing countries has been advanced by novel projects and the conversion of redundant satellite dishes to radio telescopes. This talk will give an overview of the current state of some of these projects and the challenges that radio astronomers are now tackling.

**The convention is organized by Yearbook of Astronomy Editor Brian Jones and tickets can be purchased via the Starlight Nights website below. The ticket/admission price is £17.50 per person which includes a buffet lunch**

[starlight-nights.co.uk/yearbook-of-astronomy-convention-2022](http://starlight-nights.co.uk/yearbook-of-astronomy-convention-2022)

# Spaceport Cornwall Launch Crew 2022

## Calling School Students in Cornwall...

Are you a young video editor, podcaster, social media expert, reporter or print journalist?

Spaceport Cornwall is looking for a budding new 2022 media crew (aged 11-16) based in Cornwall to help tell the story of the first ever space launch from the UK – taking place at Spaceport Cornwall next year.

We want you to document this historic moment and share the lead up to launch with the rest of the world: the behind the scenes action, exclusive interviews with the team and our partners and be in attendance at the first launch festival.

For more details and how to enter visit the website below:



[spaceportcornwall.com/launchcrew](https://spaceportcornwall.com/launchcrew)



## Mars Day 2022 (Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

**The next mission to explore Mars with the European Space Agency, the UK Space Agency, UK STEM Ambassadors and international guests is on the horizon!**

**Mars Day 2022 is an exciting free virtual event adventure for everyone, presented by the UK Space Education Office (ESERO-UK), STEM Learning and in collaboration with ESA and the UK Space Agency.**

The first mission to Mars (Day) was in March when Mars Day 2021 celebrated NASA Perseverance rover's first month on Mars; unveiled the role of the UK space industry in this mission and beyond; showcased UK STEM Ambassador and school sessions; hosted live streamed talks with national and international space VIPs.

Thousands joined in the mission and zoomed in for an awesome array of live link-ups, talks and fireside chats from national and international space VIPs.

For more details and to register please visit the website below.

[marsday.org.uk](https://marsday.org.uk)

# FAS Newsletter News!

## FAS Newsletter Publication Frequency

2022 will see a new publication frequency for the FAS Newsletter to Six times per year instead of the current Four times per year. This move will provide more scope for Member Societies and other organisations to advertise their astronomical events and outreach activities. The increased frequency will NOT affect the cost of Society Membership of the FAS. The Newsletter will be published in February, April, June, August, October and December each year. The deadline for items to be included in the Newsletter is to be the 15th of the month prior to the publication. The first Newsletter in this new frequency will be published in April 2022. The deadline for items to be included will be 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## Electronic FAS Newsletters

Since the rise of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the lock-down restrictions imposed throughout the UK and beyond, societies have not met In-Person for more than 18 months and have relied on Electronic Video Conferencing facilities such as Zoom to carry on with meetings. Indeed some societies are continuing to do so. The FAS Council took the decision during the first lock-down to make the

Newsletter an electronic only publication and send to societies via email only to enable societies to forward the publication in a timely manner to their members.

Now that a number of societies are returning to some sort of normality, although this may change in the coming weeks, we would like opinion from FAS Member Societies whether to cease printed copies altogether and continue producing electronic only versions. We do understand that some societies sell printed copies to members in order to make a profit so we need to know how many societies still do this. Should your society have an objection to the Newsletter being in electronic format only we would like to know, and preferably with the reasons why.

Please send any objections or indeed comments to the Newsletter being in electronic format only to the Editor at the email address below.

**Michael Bryce**  
FAS Newsletter Editor  
[newsletter@fedastro.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@fedastro.org.uk)

## European Space Agency Develops new Events Venue at Harwell Campus

A new conference facility that will showcase the global impact of European space activities is being built in the UK.

The centre – due to be completed in winter 2022 – will form part of ESA's European Centre for Space Applications and Telecommunications (ECSAT), which is based at Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire.

Backed by the UK Space Agency, the facility is being built by UK firm Amiri Construction.

It will serve as a focal point to promote space-based collaboration and innovation, hosting events that highlight to a global audience the role of space activities in the UK, Europe and across the world.

The centre is set to add to ESA's existing contributions to Harwell's thriving community of commercial, public and academic enterprises.

Driven by the booming UK space industry, the campus is undergoing rapid expansion. The conference facility will support this growth by reinforcing ties across Harwell's health, quantum, energy and space clusters.



The centre will provide cutting-edge, adaptable meeting facilities, including a conference hall for 300 people that can sub-divided into smaller rooms and two meeting rooms for 25 people, as well as breakout areas, exhibition space, dedicated rooms for interpreters, and catering facilities.

**European Space Agency**  
[esa.int](http://esa.int)

## FAS Newsletter Copy Deadline:

Deadline for items to be included in the next FAS Newsletter, **No 125 April 2022** is  
**Tuesday 15th March 2022**

Please email items to [newsletter@fedastro.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@fedastro.org.uk)