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Stand Up (And Be Counted) For Dark Skies!



*Gross glare of 1KW domestic security light in New Forest,
Bob Mizon—CfDS Image Archive*

It's a busy year for the British Astronomical Association's Campaign for Dark Skies (CfDS). In the spring of 2003, the Council for the Protection of Rural England (since renamed, but not re-initialised, the Campaign to Protect Rural England) launched its massive 'Night Blight' campaign. CfDS provided images, advice and statistics for the excellent literature which CPRE produced, and took part in training activities for CPRE branch officers. Night Blight is a major light-pollution initiative, using isophotic maps of the UK by night from space to hammer home the point that even rural areas are invaded by wasted light, and that the problem generally is worsening nationwide.

In June, a Parliamentary Select Committee on light pollution met for the first time. Representatives of the astronomical community, environmentalists, the lighting industry and local government gave evidence, and a Committee report will appear in September 2003. The CPRE events and the Select

Committee meetings were going on simultaneously in the summer, generating a flurry of radio, TV and newspaper items both locally and nationally. CfDS committee members fielded dozens of calls from journalists and researchers.

Again in September, dark-sky campaigners from all over the world will meet in Stuttgart, southern Germany, for the Third European Symposium on the Protection of the Night Sky. CfDS delegates will talk on recent events in the UK, lighting and crime, and measuring methods.

With all this going on, the average member of the public will probably have heard or seen something in 2003 about light pollution, on TV or radio, or in the newspapers. So it is a good time to reinforce the ripples spreading from these events.

Light-pollution campaigners face many obstacles: a gut-feeling among the general public that bright lights somehow deter criminals (they don't!); inertia in local government, unwilling to take on the extra work that enforcing lighting regulations might bring; and accusations that we are all trying to plunge the country into medieval darkness. But possibly the most surprising hurdle before campaigners is that the majority of amateur astronomers, their natural supporters, and there must be tens of thousands of them in the UK, do little or nothing about light pollution. One doesn't have to be a rabid tub-thumper to make a difference. Here are fifteen ways, some of them consuming very little energy, to stand up for the starry sky.

- 1 Tell astronomers and non-astronomers about the skyglow issue, stressing energy and money wasted. What would



*M5 widening LPS and HPS Full Cut Off
Ken Sheldon and Chris Baddiley, CfDS Image Archive*

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they think if water mains leaked every few metres? If talking to a non-astro audience, leave the stars till last – not everyone is interested in them, surprisingly enough! But everyone is interested in economising on energy and saving council tax funds.

- 2 Convince interested listeners that astronomers are, on the whole, normal people with the same lighting needs as everyone else. We do NOT want to switch off any necessary light.
- 3 Ask local libraries, bulletin boards, environment offices, education departments, etc. to carry CfDS information, available from Bob Mizon or the CfDS website www.dark-skies.org
- 4 Keep local media up to date with the skyglow issue. They welcome “green” stories and public debates. Try to insist that they avoid crass headlines such as “Stargazers call for big switch-off”, or “Back to the dark ages”.
- 5 Offer to speak to schools, and youth and adult groups (including CPRE branches). They are always on the lookout for speakers, and many teachers have little grounding in astronomy. Any discussion of the Earth in Space or a Tour of the Universe can include light pollution.
- 6 Ask neighbours about their lighting plans and show them, at the telescope, why you enjoy the night sky.
- 7 Approach owners of obtrusive lights: they may not know they are causing a problem. Experience shows that most offenders will take some remedial action. Have them stand outside the house while you walk past the dazzling lamp: can they see you? If not, the lights are of much more use to a burglar than they are to the householder, dazzling potential witnesses and providing light for criminals to work by.
- 8 Write to local councillors, council lighting/highway engineers, MPs, MEPs, sports clubs etc., to ask about their views and lighting policies. A list of Select Committee MPs appears below. Use CfDS and Institution of Lighting Engineers (ILE) literature, and keep the debate alive in your area. Contest arguments that “cut-off” lights, shining only downwards, have to be closer together and therefore more expensive. All the old, glary streetlights in the author’s area (East Dorset District Council) have been replaced by well directed types.

The sky is much improved, the streets are well lit, and the new lights are on the *same columns* as the old ones were.

- 9 If new, less glary lighting is perceived by some residents to be dimmer, make sure that they understand the efficiency of modern, better directed lamps. Not seeing the glare is a good thing, and their money is being saved.
- 10 Write to Central Government environment officials, asking why the UK has subscribed to international energy initiatives (Agenda 21, Kyoto protocols etc.) yet continues to waste millions of pounds on light-energy waste every year. Ask them why DEFRA seems not to count the night sky as part of the environment, when it is without doubt a site of special scientific interest and an area of outstanding natural beauty!
- 11 If you or any group you belong to has a website, run a light pollution section and link to the Campaign for Dark Skies site.
- 12 Investigate the views of your local police and Watch organisations on “security” lighting. Dazzling, “over-the-top” lamps are NOT the answer to crime, as everyday experience shows.
- 13 Try to forestall poor lighting schemes in your area by studying planning applications, and making sure your council has lighting clauses in its planning and environmental strategies. Ask Environmental Health Officers, Planning Heads and Highways Engineers if they are cutting energy waste and carbon dioxide emissions, and protecting the stars, by promoting sane lighting practices.
- 14 Help CfDS directly by subscribing to its newsletter (£2.40 for 2 years’ issues to The Secretary, BAA, Burlington House, Piccadilly W1J 0DU), becoming a CfDS local officer (120+ nationally), distributing its literature or donating to its fighting fund (contact Bob Mizon).
- 15 Ask your MEP why the European Environment Commissioners continue to insist that light pollution is not a problem which the European Union should address.

Remember: “broad-sides”, carping criticism and baldly accusing

(Continued on page 3)

Founded in 1823 and based in Bloomsbury,
Birkbeck specialises in part-time
University of London degrees by evening study.

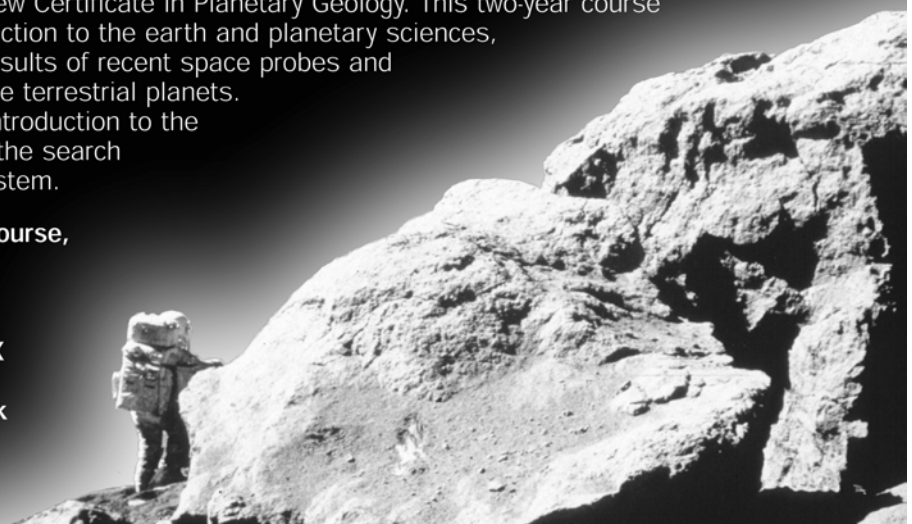


Certificate in Planetary Geology

We are pleased to announce a new Certificate in Planetary Geology. This two-year course will give students a broad introduction to the earth and planetary sciences, with a strong emphasis on the results of recent space probes and the geological investigation of the terrestrial planets. The course will also include an introduction to the new science of astrobiology and the search for life elsewhere in the Solar System.

For further information on this course,
please contact: Clare Sims,
School of Earth Sciences
Birkbeck, University of London
Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX
tel: 020 7679 7333
email: c.sims@geology.bbk.ac.uk

www.bbk.ac.uk/es



someone of being a polluter are counter-productive strategies. With experts like the ILE and the Highways Agency on our side, astronomers can help to reclaim the night sky through reasoned argument and strength in numbers. There is no argument in favour of light pollution. Everyone wins if it is reduced.

Bob Mizon

Co-ordinator, British Astronomical Association Campaign for Dark Skies

Author: 'Light Pollution' (Springer, 2001; ISBN 1-85233-497-5)

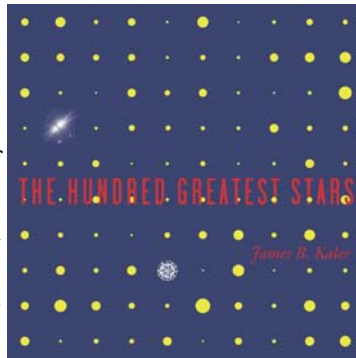
(Select Committee MPs: if you are a constituent of one of these MPs, please write to them expressing a desire for a positive outcome to their deliberations. This should take about ten minutes, and will cost only the price of a stamp!

Dr Ian Gibson (Chairman) (Lab, Norwich North), Mr Parmjit Dhanda (Lab, Gloucester), Mr Tom Harris (Lab, Glasgow Cathcart), Mr David Heath (Lib Dem, Somerton and Frome), Dr Brian Iddon (Lab, Bolton South East), Mr Robert Key (Con, Salisbury), Mr Tony McWalter (Lab, Hemel Hempstead), Dr Andrew Murri-son (Con, Westbury), Geraldine Smith (Lab, Morecambe and Lunesdale), Bob Spink (Con, Castle Point), Dr Desmond Turner (Lab, Brighton Kemptown)

The Hundred Greatest Stars, by James B. Kaler

A Book Review, by Callum Potter

The Hundred Greatest Stars is not the by-product of some Channel-4 poll of favourite Hollywood actors, but a personal selection by the author of Stars which he likes best. Often overlooked as we search out faint nebulae or galaxies, or try to make out details on the surfaces of our neighbouring planets, stars themselves provide an infinite variety and do deserve a book in their own right.



This book provides a brief introduction to stars and their physics, addressing questions like "what are stars?", "what kinds of stars are there?", "how do stars evolve?". Although brief, the introduction is well written, but unfortunately there are no references for further reading if this is of interest to you.

Next comes the 100 Greatest Stars, or in fact 101 as the author includes the Sun as star 0. For each star there is either a picture or graphic on the left page, and on the right page a discussion about the star. The pictures and graphics are excellent, either depicting the star itself, its location in a constellation, a light curve, or depiction of mass transfer between binary systems, and such like. Although brief the discussions of each star summarise the important facts, and why this star is included in the top 100.

I am sure, as in any selection, there will be much discussion about why certain stars are in or out. But certainly all in my top 10 were included – Mizar, Albireo, RR Lyrae, Algol, Delta Cephei, Rho Ophiuchi, Betelgeuse, Sirius, Eta Carinae, Cygnus X-1. This book is not just about those stars that are observable by amateurs, though, so included are some unusual objects such as Cygnus X-1, pulsars (PSR B1257+12) and faint white dwarfs (DZ 21).

This book is excellent both as a 'good read' and for dipping into as the need arises. Highly recommended.

ISBN: 0387954368 , 213pp Hardback, r.r.p. £23.99

CORNWALL A.S.

The Society has had an eventful and successful year. We were very pleased when, twelve months ago Sir Patrick Moore kindly agreed to become our Honorary Vice President, and marked the occasion with a contribution to our monthly newsletter.

The West Cornwall Astronomy Society has approached us with a view to a possible merger of our Societies to the mutual benefit of both. This is under investigation at present.

Cornwall County Council are to be applauded for their program of replacing the orange horror of their low-pressure sodium lighting with the more modern units which light the ground and not the sky. Progress is slow but their engineers do recognise the problems. These are clearly shown on satellite photographs of the country and it is small consolation that here in Cornwall we have better dark skies than most.

Full details of our activities and program of events are on our web site:

www.CornwallAS.org.uk

e-mail: info@CornwallAS.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

HUDDERSFIELD A.S.

The Society has now installed its new Meade LX200 16 inch in the Observatory. The Society received £35,200 from a legacy and has had in the last year about £16,000 in grants, including interest a total of about £52,000. With this money a great deal of equipment has been bought, including telescopes; Meade LX200 GPS 16", Celestron 11" GPS, Takahashi FS102. Also, a Digital Projector and Slide Projector, a set of Nagler eyepieces, and travel cases for the telescopes. Included in the grant figures is £4984 from the Local Fund Network for Children and Young People which is to be used to purchase a TMAX 90 Coronado Solar Filter. After purchases the society has £18,000 left. The Society's old 16" telescope was sold to and ex-member in France.

WEST YORKSHIRE AS

We have just received another grant for £9747 from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust toward the new extension. This brings the total to £66,972.16 over the past few years.

LEEDS ASTROMEET 2003

Leeds Astronomical Society will again host their annual Astromet, on the 8th November. Guest speakers and their subjects are:

Dr David Hughes - "The Bombarded Earth"

Mr Michael Clarke - "Variable Stars - Meeting The Family"

Professor Carlos Frenk - "The Dark and Visible Sides of Our Universe"

Dr Robert Walsh - "Basking In The Sunshine : A New Encounter with Our Closest Star"

Dr Allan Chapman - "History of Transits of Venus 1639, 1761.....etc"

The venue will again be the Leeds Metropolitan University's Brunswick Building (on Merrion Way). Doors open to the Public at 9am onwards for a 10am start. Admission Price to be confirmed.

A full set of details and location maps can be found on the Society's website - www.leedsastronomy.org.uk

LIVERPOOL AS

Members were kept busy with the Transit of Mercury on May 7th, and the Annual solar eclipse, with one group of members in Iceland, and eight groups of members in Scotland, all with different weather tails to tell.

Liverpool AS Pex Hill Observatory Dome

The new dome was delivered on July 11th. The old dome was dismantled on 12th and the new one erected on 13th. All that was needed to complete the installation of the dome concerned aspects of the electrics. Money was needed and agreed to spend on materials for decorating the dome



David Owen, Liverpool AS

The remaining has been sent to Peter Drew. He will be coming to make regular inspections to make sure that the dome is operating properly. Tony Williams has fixed the lights in the dome and everything seems to be going smoothly. Tony also said that he would write to United Utilities, who own the land, on final completion, explaining that all safety concerns have been met and he would invite them to inspect the finished article. Dave Thomson has taken the old dome away.

An opening date for the new dome, to be called 'The Leighton Observatory', is to be decided. Perhaps March 2004, the Observatory's 10th anniversary. Tony Williams will ask United Utilities about the possibility of the installation of a plaque.

Joint Meeting with the Institute of Physics & Allan Chapman

This will be held on April 30th 2004 and will be a talk by Allan Chapman on the Transit of Venus in the Liverpool University Chadwick Physics Building. Allan himself has expressed that he is anxious that the LAS is well represented at this meeting. The lecture will be at 18.00 and will be free. The Institute of Physics is to be contacted by the Council with regard to the feasibility of making the meeting ticketed. They themselves have asked that we might wish to contribute towards refreshments for the occasion.

The 122nd Session of the Liverpool AS begins with The Presidential Address on September 19th, TBC at the Crypt Concert Room, RC Cathedral, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Meeting begins at 7pm

Please contact the Society Sec Ken Clark at clarklunar@aol.com for more details.

NEW FAS MEMBER SOCIETIES

We are pleased to welcome new member societies:

ASTRO SOCIETY of GLASGOW
STOUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
UNIVERSITY of BIRMINGHAM AS

LLANDRILLO COLLEGE AS

The Observatruck

Over the last few months the observation side of our society has grown and we usually have about 30 members and some new faces at our observation nights. So much so that the farmer who lets us use his land kindly suggested that we put some sort of building up, so that we can house equipment and even observe from it. At the same time one of our members, Roy Darbyshire, said that he would donate a large homemade telescope to the society, providing we had somewhere to keep it.



It was agreed to look for something that would do the job. After many weeks of being shown some very poor condition units at very high prices (over £1000) we were losing hope. One day I came across a scrap dealer who had some old mobile workshops, previously owned by the GPO who used them for line repairs. The unit was in a bit of a mess but at £250 it was a bargain. I got permission to buy the unit and arranged to have it delivered to our site.

That weekend about twenty members of our group went up to the site and stripped out all of the old machinery. We installed a new floor and gave the place a good clean and a new name. It is now known as the "Observatruck", and will soon house the Roy Darbyshire Telescope.

Over the next week we made some locks for the main door and moved it into its new position. It was now ready for use, although it still needs to be painted green, due to its location. We will be installing the scope over the next few weeks in the hope that we can get Sir Patrick to open it for us when he does a talk in Llandudno.

The truck is finished now and it is a working observatory. But unfortunately Sir Patrick could not make it due to traffic but he did officially open it and saw the plaque from the North Wales theatre in Llandudno.



Steve Reid

SCARBOROUGH & DISTRICT AS



Some pictures of the deep partial eclipse of the sun we recently witnessed.

One left, taken by Ian Lilleyman (from Sheffield). The shots were taken from within the Borough of Scarborough, just in front of the Abbey at Whitby. Ian's camera was a Canon Digital Ixus V. and hand held.

On right image by Jon Harper



ENJOY ASTRONOMY IN PAPHOS, CYPRUS

Our astronomy club in Paphos was started just over a year ago and now we have a membership of about 30 people. We have a number of serious amateurs and a larger number of people attracted by this fascinating hobby for the first time.

We hold our meetings on the second Friday of each month except for the months of July and August. We have a varied programme of events covering astronomical observation sessions, lectures on the simple physics of space and star-formation etc. and a good social element.

From April through to November, Cyprus benefits from having virtually cloud-free night skies on a continuous basis, so there are always opportunities for lunar or celestial observations. Whilst some of our membership will leave Cyprus during the summer months due to the very high temperatures, there will always be some members here in Paphos who would be most pleased to see any fellow astronomer visiting our lovely island on holiday!

If you come to Cyprus on holiday and would like to make contact with our club, then the following are some telephone numbers of the Committee:

President Michael Heap (00357) 26652842
email: j.m.heap@avacom.net
Observations Officer/Secretary David/Carmen Brown(00357) 26936041
email: dbrown@logos.cy.net
Publicity Officer Chris Spyrou (00357) 26943880
email: swarovski@cytanet.com.cy
Sandi Linton Committee member (00357) 26653879
email: sandil@cytanet.com.cy

Our Publicity Officer, Chris Spyrou, owns a photographic shop near the Rose Corner in Kato Paphos. He is also the sole Meade telescope retailer in Cyprus. So pop into his shop and see him or his wife, Maria, and they will let you know what's happening and show you their Meade product range.

We look forward to seeing some fellow enthusiasts over here in Cyprus: you'll be assured of a warm welcome!

Mike Heap, President

STOUR AS

The newly formed Stour Astronomy Society has arranged to meet on a monthly basis in the Jubilee Room of Cavendish Memorial Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 p.m.

At each meeting an illustrated talk will be given either by Dr. Kevin Marshall or by a guest speaker. Dr. Marshall is a lecturer with the University of Cambridge board of continuing education and with the Open University, and is a founder member of the Stour Astronomical Society.

The Society was founded this year to provide a focal point for amateur astronomers of all levels of interest and ability to meet and share their enjoyment of the night skies. It is anticipated that members will be drawn from nearby towns and villages in the Stour Valley area.

It is hoped that at future meetings some observation will be possible on clear nights and members are invited to bring telescopes or binoculars when weather conditions permit.

The Society is seeking new members but visitors are also very welcome at a cost of £1.50 per evening, including refreshments.

AS of HARINGEY



The Annular Eclipse from Iceland, Jerry Workman

Several members of the Astronomical Society of Haringey travelled far hoping for the best view of the eclipse.

Jerry Workman travelled to Iceland, primarily to look at the dramatic scenery and catch a glimpse of its geological activity. Viewing the eclipse would be a bonus. A couple of days tours including Reykjavik and excursions to the Hraunfossar waterfalls, and eruptive geysers. The third day was eclipse day. This meant an early start to arrive at the observation site for sunrise at 2.30 a.m. At the particular location the Sun would rise complete, with first contact at 3.00 a.m. Typically as the Sun started to climb upward the cloud descended downwards. Just before annularity the Sun vanished into thin cloud, which miraculously broke up allowing us a view of the annularity after all. The view was absolutely fantastic both naked eye and through the camera lens.

Garry Marriot travelled north to Inverness and then onto Findhorn. Unfortunately the weather was not good, with a thick mist that obscured the horizon. With 30 minutes to go, a move to a higher site inland was suggested. Some split into groups and drove inland, and managed to catch mid-eclipse. Garry waited though and then 20 minutes after mid-eclipse a view through thick mist of the partial phase was captured.

Charles Towler trekked to Orkney to view the Eclipse from South Ronaldsay. On the morning of the eclipse the sky was grey, and it was clear there would be almost no prospect of sight of the eclipse; indeed the coast below could barely be seen. Sunrise time came and went with scarcely a change in light level. The rest of the stay proved what a delight Orkney is, and is thoroughly recommended. Filled with interesting wild life, walking and history.

Mat Irvine journeyed to Durness, and parked at the campsite overlooking the bay. The alarm set for 4.00 a.m. was not needed with all the partying going on. It was still lightish, and there seemed to be a reddish glow behind a cloud bank. Checking watches indicated that annularity was 'there', but still no sighting. Then suddenly a glimpse of the eclipsed Sun rising through the bank of cloud - so most of the eclipse was seen.

HELP WANTED

I have recently become very interested in the A.E. (Astronomical Equipment) telescopes that were made in Guildford St., Luton (Beds) in the 60's and early 70's. The telescope I am looking for is the A.E. 11.75 inch Cassegrain on the "D" Type mount. If anybody out there has any knowledge of this scope, or the whereabouts, could you please contact Peter Kemp either by phone (01305 889740) or email (ph.kemp@virgin.net)

Thank you in anticipation.

SOCIETY ROUND UP

ABINGDON AS

Meetings at 8.00 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon. Contact Bob Dryden, 01491 201620, or Sebastian Linfoot, 01865 725094.

www.abingdonastro.org.uk

AS OF HARINGEY

Meetings in 2003 at Ashmole School, Southgate, London N14, at 7.30pm. www.ashastro.org.uk.

16-Oct AGM & 2003 Annular Eclipse	Jerry Workman
19-Nov The Beagle 2 Project	Prof. Colin Pillinger
11-Dec Search for Extra-Solar Planets	Prof. Barrie Jones
22-Jan Collisions and Catastrophes	Dr. Monica Grady

ASSOCIATION OF FALKIRK ASTRONOMERS

Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, in the Old Folks Welfare Hall in Laurieston, Falkirk, at 7.30 pm. Contact Walter Scott (Secretary), 01324 716344.

www.astronomy-falkirk.co.uk

15-Oct Meteors	Neil Bone
12-Nov Rocks from Space	Jamie Shepherd

ASTRONOMY SECTION OF LA SOCIETE GUERNESE

Meetings at the Observatory, Rue du Lorier, St. Peters, Guernsey. Every Tuesday evening and Friday if clear for observing.

www.astronomy.org.gg

AYLESBURY AS

Meetings take place at the Scout Hut, Oakfield Road, Aylesbury and Contact Simon Foster on 01844 216108.

www.aylesbury.astronomy.org.uk

06-Oct TBC	Dr. Katherine Gunn
03-Nov The story of Beagle2	Dr. Geraint Morgan
01-Dec Christmas Quiz	

BEDFORD AS

Meets last Wednesday of every month at the Piazzini Smyth Community Observatory, Bedford School, Pembley Avenue. Contact Paul Barton, 01234 309249.

www.bedsastro.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM AS

Wednesday Evenings at Aston Uni. Club Night; Library, telescope construction, & if it is clear observing at the Priory Observatory. www.birmingham-astronomy.co.uk

28-Oct Dr Plot and the Amazing Double Sunset	Kevin Kilburn,
25-Nov Just How Big Is The Universe	Prof. Martin Barstow,

BRADFORD AS

Meetings held at Eccleshill Library, Bolton Road, Bradford at 7.30 pm Hilary on 01274 672570 or Mike on 01274 637374

www.bradford-astro.freeserve.co.uk

14-Oct Einstein and Astronomy	Prof Jim Matthews, York University
27-Oct Time - the ultimate Mystery	Dr R Keesing, York University

10-Nov A Star is Born

24-Nov 37,000 Years of the Moon

08-Dec Astronomy in Yorkshire
Dawson

22-Dec Quiz and Christmas Raffle

05-Jan AGM & Video/Slide show

10-Jan Open Day for Beginners, Eccleshill Library, 10.30 - 4.00

19-Jan Star Hopping
Pete Lunn

BRISTOL AS

Meetings held on Friday evenings at 7.15pm at Bristol Grammar School, University Road, Bristol. John Pickard (Vice Chairman), tel. 01454 632692 or Tricia Brown (Secretary), tel. 0117 968 5023

www.bristolastro.soc.freeserve.co.uk

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.

www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org

02-Oct The Lives and Deaths of Stars	Dr. Alan Longstaff
16-Oct White Dwarf Stars	Dr. Nigel Bannister
30-Oct Light Pollution	Joy Griffiths
13-Nov Adventures in Deep Space from Wiltshire	Philip Perkins
27-Nov Time and the Stars	Bob Mizon
11-Dec The Sun	Lucie Green
08-Jan The Kuiper Belt and Planet X	Martin Griffiths
22-Jan Recent Results in X-Ray Astronomy	Dr. Katherine Gunn

CLEVELAND & DARLINGTON AS

Most monthly meetings held at Grindon Parish Hall.

Neil M. Haggath, Tel. 01332 740977, E-mail: neil.haggath@ntlworld.com

11-Oct A talk by former cosmonaut Alexander Alexandrov 2 p.m. at Planetarium

07-Nov Longitude Lt. Andrew Linsley RN(Rtd)

12-Dec Title TBA Jurgen Schmoll

09-Jan Members Night

CORNWALL AS

Meets twice every month from Jan to November on the second and fourth Thursdays at The Godolphin Club Wendron St, Helston. Contact 01326 562386 e-mail info@CornwallAS.org.uk.

www.CornwallAS.org.uk

COTSWOLD AS

Meets second Saturday of every month at Shurdington Church Hall, Shurdington, Cheltenham. 7.45 pm.

Contact Duncan Willoughby (01452-416405).

www.cotswoldas.org.uk

11-Oct Meteors	Neil Bone, BAA
08-Nov The Colours of Starlight	Callum Potter, Cotswold AS

13-Dec Christmas Meeting

10-Jan Jets in Radio Galaxies Dr. Martin Hardcastle

COVENTRY and WARWICKSHIRE AS

Meets at Earlsdon Church Hall on the corner of Earlsdon Road South and Albany Rd, Earlsdon, Coventry. Arriving at 7.15 to start for 7.30pm until 9.45pm Contact Steve Payne, 02476-474227.

10-Oct Complexities Prof. Sandra Chapman

14-Nov TBC

12-Dec Open Forum. Members Evening

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

FARNHAM AS

Meetings held at The United Reform Church, Farnham. Contact Barry Bellinger. Tel 07879 400463.

www.farnhamas.plus.com

09-Oct Jets from Black holes Dr Christian Kaiser SOTON

13-Nov Moon, Mars and Meteorites Dr Paul Oliver

11-Dec Lick Observatory Julian Parfitt

HANNEY & DISTRICT AS

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

HARROGATE AS

Meetings now at Harlow Community Centre (The Green Hut), Beckwith Avenue, Harrogate. Contact Maryln Smith (01937 531171) or Tony Bills (01423 501976)

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

www.hbas.org.uk.

The parent society for the Hebden Bridge group (Hebden Bridge Literary & Scientific Society) will be holding their AGM on Tuesday 25th November which will be followed by a talk 'A Journey into Space' by Philip Lomas (Father in law of Atlantis Shuttle astronaut Peirs Sellers)

15-Oct Thomas Cooke-Telescope Maker from York Martin Lunn MBE

12-Nov Observing Faint Objects in City Skies Gary Poyner

HUDDERSFIELD ASTRO. & PHIL. SOCIETY

Meetings at Observatory and Town Hall

www.huddersfielddastronomy.co.uk

03-Oct Gravitational Lenses Dr. Neal Jackson

07-Nov Helioseismology Dr. Roger New

05-Dec Genesis, the Birth of a Star Paul Money

09-Jan Cosmic Collisions Dennis Ashton

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. Mary McNulty, 01298 78234

http://members.aol.com/idasastro

14-Oct Telescopes of William Herschel Les Jepson

11-Nov Nebulae and their Discoverers John Brown

09-Dec AGM + Christmas Party

LEEDS AS

Meets at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds. between 7.00 pm and 9.30 pm

leedsastronomy.org.uk

08-Nov Astromeet 2003

12-Nov Space Is Not Empty, Life of Sir Edward Appleton Prof. Peter Excell, Bradford University

10-Dec President's Evening

LIVERPOOL AS

Venue for monthly meetings is the Roman Catholic Cathedral's Crypt Concert Room, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Meetings commence at 7pm until 9pm. Contact Secretary: Tel 0151-638 3270 or email:

clarklunar@aol.com

LOUGHTON AS

Meeting every Thursday at 8.00 pm. in the Scout Hall, Loughton Lane, Theydon Bois, Essex. Evenings.

las-astro.org.uk

MILTON KEYNES AS

www.mkas.org.uk

03-Oct Observing Deepsky Objects Stewart Moore

17-Oct Cataclysmic Variables Nick James

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.

www.naas.btinternet.co.uk

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. Contact Bernard Beeston, tel. 020 8363 5696.

19-Oct Mike Leggett

16-Nov Jerry Workman

PAPWORTH ASTRONOMY CLUB

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month. Contact Keith Tritton (tel. 01767 677219)

01-Oct Supernova studies with the Hubble Space Telescope Stephen Smartt, Institute of Astronomy.

SCARBOROUGH & DISTRICT AS

Public observing nights at The Astronomy Centre, Dalby Forest, Thornton Dale, near PICKERING, North Yorkshire, on the first Friday of every month. Contact 01723 500389

www.scarborough-as.org.uk

SHEFFIELD AS

Meet at least twice a month at Mayfield Environmental Education Centre, David Lane, Fulwood, Sheffield S10. Contact Darren on 0114-269-2291, sheffieldastro@hotmail.com.

www.sheffieldastro.org.uk

SHERWOOD OBSERVATORY

admin@sherwood-observatory.org.uk

sherwood-observatory.org.uk

SHROPSHIRE AS

Speaker meetings are generally held on the first Friday of the month in Shrewsbury with a monthly observing meeting at Rodington Village Hall. Phone 01952 820082 for details.

www.astro.cf.ac.uk/sas/sasmain.htm

25-Oct The Science In Amateur Astronomy Steve Laurie

22-Nov Observing in Hungary Doug Renton-Cooper

05-Dec AGM + Amateur Astronomy with a 2m Telescope Dr. Paul Roche

20-Dec Observing + Short Talk TBC

SOLENT AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Meetings are held in Room 8 Oaklands Centre, Fairisle Rd, Lordshill Southampton, 7.30 to 10pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Ken Medway 02380 582204

email kenmedway@kenmedway.demon.co.uk.

www.delscope.demon.co.uk

21-Oct AGM

18-Nov Sun Sea and Stars Astronomy in the Algarve Paul Money

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.

www.southampton-astronomical-society.org.uk

09-Oct Mars Odyssey Andy Lound

13-Nov Aurora Neil Bone

11-Dec An Introduction to Astronomy and Observing Members

STOUR AS

Meets monthly in the Jubilee Room of Cavendish Memorial Hall, Cavendish, Suffolk on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 p.m. Contact K. Marshall, 01787-249534

07-Oct The Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes on La Palma Neil Parker

04-Nov The Winter Sky

Dr. Kevin Marshall

02-Dec Asteroids, Comets, Meteors + Christmas Party Dr. Kevin Marshall

06-Jan Types and Spectra of Stars Dr. Kevin Marshall

STRATFORD UPON AVON AS

Meetings 7.30pm at the Home Guard Club, Tiddington, Nr Stratford upon Avon. Contact Mike Whitecross 01789 731784.

www.astro.org.uk

08-Oct Autumn Star Party and Telescope Night

28-Oct The Moon: A Biography Dr. David Whitehouse

12-Nov Favourite Astronomy & Dark Sky Holiday Locations

25-Nov Astronomy Lecture

09-Dec Recent Developments in Cosmology Professor Trevor Ponman

SWANSEA AS

Meetings held at Theatre C Science Tower, Swansea University

Contact Mike Morales (01792-528497).

www.crysaniasia.co.uk/SAS/

09-Oct Capturing that Moment of Perfect Seeing Dr. Steve Wainwright

23-Oct Arizona Astronomy Martin Chick

13-Nov Bessel and the Distances of the Stars Dr. Ken Chandler

27-Nov The Sun's Twisted Mysteries Dr. Lucy Green

11-Dec Spaceflight and the Role of the Imagination Dr. Martin Griffiths

08-Jan From Starbirth to Stardust Colin Gravelle

22-Jan Chasing the Aurora Borealis Dr. John Birks

TIVERTON AS

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

03-Oct Geology of the Solar System Dr. Caroline Smith

07-Nov Solving a 40 Year Puzzle Derek Ward-Thompson

05-Dec Indoor Astronomy Lilian Hobbs

12-Dec Christmas Party

WESSEX AS

Meets 19.30 to 22.00 The first Tuesday in the month at the Allendale Centre, Hanham Rd, Wimborne (for 2003 some dates are the 2nd Tues)

www.wessex-astro-society.freeserve.co.uk

14-Oct UK Spaceguard Project Jonathon Tate

11-Nov Ovens for Cooking Elements James Fradgley

02-Dec Slide and Video Evening Various members

WEST DIDSbury AS

Meets 7.00 - 9.00 pm on 2nd Monday of the month except for July (1st Monday) and August (no meeting), at City College Manchester, Fielden Campus. Contact Kate Graham on 957 1672

http://groups.msn.com/westdidsburyastronomicalsociety

WEST YORKSHIRE AS

Contact Ken Willoughby on 01977 795535 or

E-mail ken.willoughby@btinternet.com

WOLVERHAMPTON AS

Meets alternate Mondays, at 7.30pm, between September and April, with additional meetings in May and June, at Beckminster Methodist Church Hall. Contact Michael Bryce, 01562 742859, email editor@wolvas.org.uk

www.wolvas.org.uk

WORTHING AS

All Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month unless otherwise stated, at Heene Church Rooms, Worthing at 7.30 p.m. Contact 01903 521205, or Email: worthing_astronomical_society@hotmail.com

www.was.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. Contact Hazel on 07944 751277

03-Oct AGM & members observations

17-Oct Thomas Write Trophy Quizmaster - Paul Money

07-Nov Our Sun and solar observations Philippa Browning

21-Nov Black Holes and the Expanding Universe Christine Done

05-Dec Quasars Clive Tadhunter

19-Dec Christmas Dinner

Details of meetings mentioned in the Society Roundup should be confirmed before travelling. All programmes may be subject to change with no notice. The FAS can accept no responsibility for any inaccuracies.

LIST OF OFFICERS 2002/2003

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See front cover for details

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Treasurer: **Peter Cooke,**
See front cover for details

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Devon Group : **John Parratt**
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East Anglia Group : **VACANT**

SAGAS Rep: **VACANT**

FAS Publications

The FAS 'Astrocalendar 2003-2004' will soon be available.

The FAS Handbook 2002/3 has been printed. 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.freeserve.co.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	
Choosing a Telescope or Binoculars	£0.60 + A5 SAE with 28p 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 69p stamps

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

DON'T FORGET

THE FAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

20th September 2003

Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road,
Cambridge

9.00 am. to 6.00 pm.

A great line-up of speakers, tours of some of the Cambridge University telescopes, trade stands and society displays.

Tea and coffee provided.

More details on the FAS Website

www.fedastro.org.uk

Deadline for submission for next newsletter, 13th December 2003

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