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Transit of Venus – June 8 2004



Filming for Stardate in Cheltenham, sadly due to 'technical problems' they only showed the park flowers !



Observing the transit with the Liverpool Astronomical Society (photo Dave Owen).

The transit of Venus in June was a unique event, not only was it the first transit of Venus to be seen for 120 years (no one living has ever witnessed this event), and it was to be wholly visible from the UK from start to end, but in defying Gray's first law of astronomical phenomena (the chance of a clear sky is inversely proportional to the rarity of the event) most of the UK was blessed with good observing conditions. Conditions were best in the south, but those in more northerly latitudes managed some glimpses of the event, with observations being reported from Shetland to the Isle of Wight.



Patrick Moore and 'The Crew' at Selsey. (Photo by Martin Mobberley)

(Continued on page 2)

Don't Forget!

THE 2004 FAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

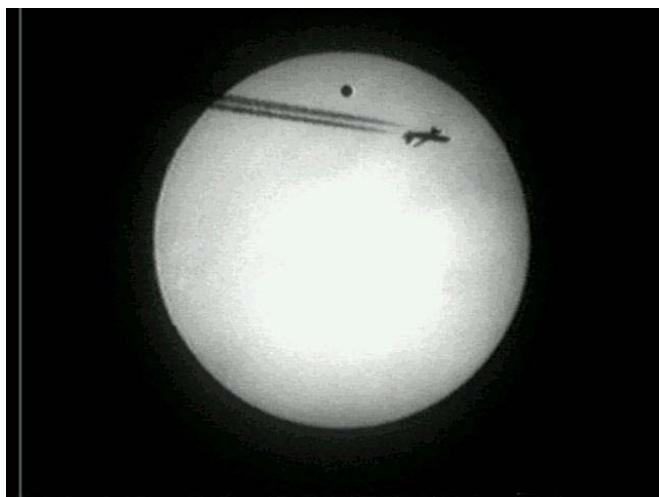
2nd October 2004

At The Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, Cambridge

Speakers to include: Prof. Douglas Gough, Dr. Paul Murdin, Guy Hurst, Dr. Cathie Clark.
Plus Trade Stands and Society Displays.

Predating the Transit by about a month, many societies were visited by a team from Screenhouse Productions making a preview programme about the Transit for BBC 2 launching their new 'Stardate' series. There was a great deal of coverage of the event on TV and Radio, and with the good weather bumper crowds turned out to the many societies staging events in their areas.

Results continue to come in and are still being posted to the website www.transitofvenus2004.org.uk



*Andy Sieroslawski
Todmorden Astronomical Society, West Yorkshire*



Reg. Char. 1101539

Astromeet 2004

"The biggest amateur astronomical meeting in the North"

Saturday November 6th 2004

Guest Speakers:

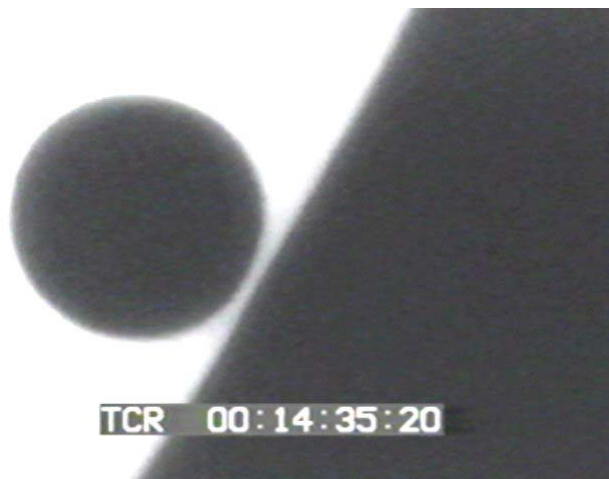
- Dr Allan Chapman (Uni of Oxford)
- Dr Rob Jeffries (Keele Uni) - Peering into the furnace - the microwave background and the accelerating universe
- Dr Duncan Lorimer (Uni of Manchester) - Double Neutron Star Binaries
- Professor Michael Merrifield (Uni of Nottingham) - How to build a Galaxy
- Nick James (BAA) - Observing Comets

TRADE STANDS

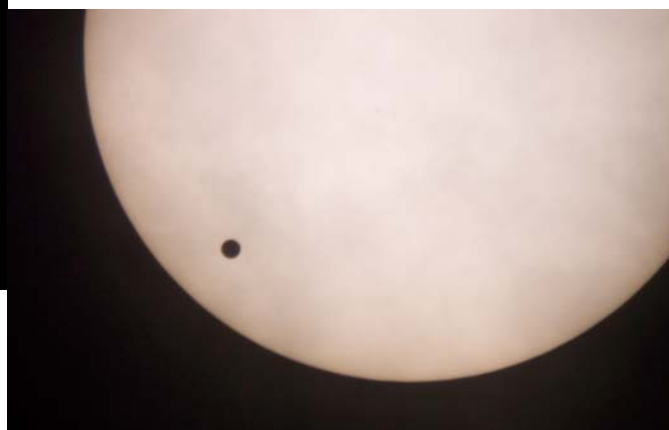
Location: Brunswick Building (behind the Merrion Centre)
Brunswick Terrace, Leeds LS2 8PD

Contact: Xavier Vermeren
35 Calverley Gardens
Leeds LS13 1HF
0113.2195728
Email & More Details:
<http://www.leedsastronomy.org.uk>

Price: £8 on the door
Doors open at 9.00am
First speaker at 10.00am
Meeting closes at



*By Peter Chambers and Andrew Rix.
Open University Astronomy Club, Milton Keynes.*



Ricky Northcott,, Exeter, Devon, UK.

Macclesfield Astronomical Society

We now have a great new Website at maccastro.com, designed by our Chairman, Andrew Greenwood. This is always worth checking on even if you are not in our area as it is full of information about practical observing.

We now meet twice a month once at our traditional home of Jodrell Bank and once at the excellent facilities of Goostrey Village Hall nearby. Details of these meetings can be found on the website: maccastro.com.

We run an update service for anyone who may be interested in receiving e-mails about our activities e.g. meetings, observing sessions or for short notice alerts about astronomical events eg aurora, comets. Just go to the website maccastro.com or let me know directly at this e-mail address and I will add you to the Update group - no charge and no obligation. (No salesmen will call) In return, if you want to send any info to us, please direct it to me at c.hall@ukf.net; I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Chris Hall, Vice Chairman

FAS 2005 ASTROCALENDAR

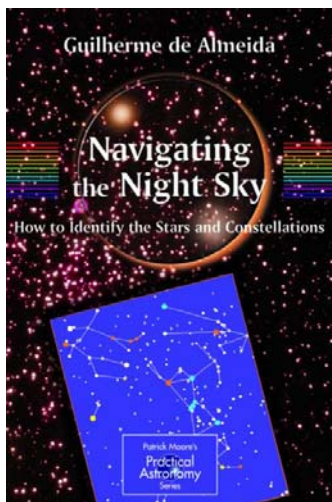
Will be available at the FAS Convention, or contact the Secretary.

Navigating the Night Sky by Guilherme de Almeida

Book Review by Samuel George

When I was asked to review this book I immediately thought that I would be in for a treat. I have heard great things of Guilherme de Almeida.

Although the book is about how to identify the stars and constellations the author goes into some considerable detail about the objects that we spend our time observing. This is good as it means that you do not get bogged down in diagrams and paths to follow. This book is definitely aimed at a beginner, but unlike so many it may even “show an old dog some new tricks” – it has me.



This book comprises a nice selection of careful thought out diagrams which fit in beautifully with the text, thus making the identification of constellations simple. The author even points out to the reader that the objects that are associated with the constellations rarely look the same. This is a stumbling point that I have found many beginners come across – looking for a bear when in fact you are more looking for a collection of diagonal lines. He is very clear about this and makes sure that the reader appreciates how old these constellations are and that over time their shape changes.

The main emphasis of the book is not to rush learning lots of different constellations and also to take it out when you observe. The author stresses the need to do actual observations and not to just read the book. This means that the beginner will be immediately enabled to say that they have identified something new every time they observe.

I would really recommend it to someone who is new to astronomy or as a reference book for the regular observer. Yes, the author does go into some background on the mythology of constellations and some of the actual astrophysics behind the night sky but this is not enough for anyone who already knows the sky. That said this book is not aiming to give you mythology or science but to show you how to find objects in the sky and I would definitely say that it does this. With the aid of this book and some clear, dark skies then even the newest observer will be off to a flying start.

Overall I get the impression that this book would be a bit pointless for anyone who knows their way around the sky, unless they are after a good reference book, but for anyone new to the field then this would be great. The language of the book is easily accessible and so would also be appropriate for most but the youngest starters.

This book is one of the Patrick Moore's Practical Astronomy Series and is published by Springer.

Price: £18.95, 205 pages, softcover. ISBN: 1-85233-737-0

Pocket Astronomy

By Leonard Honey

I'm a sucker for antique astronomy and all gizmos used in ancient times to observe the sky to their advantage. That's one of the reasons I refuse to wear a digital watch; I prefer a dial wrist-watch, which is why I like wearing a little astronomy history lesson in how we learned to use the sky to tell time.



This replica is made of brass and steel, 61 mm (2. 3/8 inches) in diameter and 6 mm (1/4 inch) thick, on a nylon cord.

It's made of two flat, nested rings, nicely "antiqued" to look old and authentic. The small loop at the top (from which the device is suspended on the cord) can be moved along the outer ring (which is scaled for latitude) until it corresponds with the latitude of the observer. The inner nested ring, which is scaled for hours, can be folded out so the two rings are perpendicular to each other. A metal "bridge" piece attached to the outer ring and fixed across its centre is slotted and holds a black sliding piece with a tiny hole in its centre. The black slider can be moved along the bridge to set it for the time of year (essentially, for the sun's declination at the time of your observation).

With the device so deployed, you can take it outside on a sunny day, suspend it on the nylon cord, and rotate it until a beam of sun- light falls through the tiny hole in the black slider onto the inner edge of the hour ring. You can pivot the bridge on its axis to “aim” the hole in the general direction of the sun to make it easier.) You read the time off the hour ring where the beam of sunlight has fallen, and you have the time of day! You also, at that moment, have your directions and a little scale model of the Earth. For the outer vertical ring is then aligned north- south, the hour ring runs parallel to the equator (terrestrial) or celestial), and the bridge is parallel to the Earth's axis. It makes the device a timepiece, a compass, and a model all at the same time.

Of course the device cried out for play- testing, and so I took it outside one afternoon to see for myself how it worked. The sky was hazy, which made the sunlight a little weak and the shadows not sharp, but I fiddled with it until I saw the tiny spot of sunlight on the shaded inner edge of the hour circle, and read the time from the hour scale. The universal ring dial said it was about 2:30; my watch read about 3:32. Considering that my watch was on Daylight Saving Time and the ring dial was on local sun time, that the Equation of Time is close to zero at this time of year, and we're not too far from our standard meridian, my wristwatch and my ring dial were in remarkable agreement. The thing works!

This is a dandy little instrument, especially for those of us who can remember a time before caesium atoms started keeping time, and who enjoy the history and antiquity of the time keeping gadgets that helped our distant ancestors to keep their appointments. The outer ring is decorated with the latitudes of some of the world's major cities in a lovely script, and the dial can be adjusted for either hemisphere. It makes a lovely decoration, an interesting conversation piece, an entrée to astronomical lessons, and can fit so flatly and discreetly in your pocket that it will not prompt any Mae West types to ask if you're just happy to see them.

I'm certainly going to keep my copy of this Pocket Universal ring dial handy. Because I'll know that in this digital, battery- operated, disposable world of ours, all I'll need to tell the time is a sunny day!

Vectis Astronomical Society

The VAS membership has risen again to 154 this year.

The Transit of Venus was an important astronomical event which we knew the VAS must celebrate. The problem was that on a weekday morning, most of our members would be busy earning their crusts. At that moment of indecision, fate delivered a solution. We received a request from one Colonel Webber (Gurkha Rifles- retired) for someone knowledgeable to take a look at the scale model that he had built in his grounds as a centrepiece to a Charity event, in order to check that his figures were correct.

Suddenly the idea seemed to present itself that we could join forces, combine our efforts and do a bit of good in the world. About the same time the invitation arrived from Screen-craft for societies to form part of a programme that they were making for the BBC. The Colonel was delighted and so the project was born, and on May 7th a lone cameraman arrived to film the VAS doing a practice run of their programme for June 8th. It was duly broadcast which was gratifying even if our moment of fame was a 'blink and you'll miss it' event!

At some point in the proceedings, Colonel Webber conceived the idea to print some Souvenir Cards, and 'The Team' sprang into action. We designed the card using our photos, with short contributions from all those involved. Come the Great Day, weather was perfect. We estimated that something over 200 people came, including some from the mainland. The Souvenir Cards were a surprising success and brought in a large part of the total takings for the day. Our chairman and Colonel Webber manned the scale model, using it to explain the significance of the event to groups of visitors. VAS members had set up their suitably filtered telescopes and solarscopes in the mid-lawn area. Another group were showing the event on TV and computer screens and Peter was answering questions and talking to a crowd clustered round him in the makeshift lecture room in the Colonel's garage. We were gratified that this crowd who had come to support a charity Coffee Morning showed so much interest in the astronomy that we brought to the occasion. When the takings were finally counted and declared, we had, between us, collected £1,740 for the two charities, greatly exceeding anyone's expectations.

Apart from that we ran a Star Party at the Botanic Gardens, hoping to repeat last year's triumph. However it rained and instead of the 200/300 that came last year, we had 15 brave souls who had to be content with the projector show. This was not a failure owing to the presence of two small boys in the front row, whose huge enthusiasm was a delight to behold and who appeared with their father at our next monthly meeting.

We have another Star Party programmed for Sat, Sept 25th at the charmingly miss-named "Dinosaur Farm". This is a repeat performance of our Mars party last year when a respectable crowd turned up in light drizzle and were packed into the museum, romantically seated amongst the fossils for one of Peter's popular projector shows. (Many a long-suffering parent had to face the obvious joke herewith implied!) Halfway through, the clouds rolled back, the skies cleared and there was a stampede for the wonderfully dark site where the telescopes were hastily assembled and it proved to be one of the best viewing nights we've ever had.

We are this very day in the midst of the huge Island event, the Garlic Festival. We have taken a stall in a prime site this year, and we have just returned after a 9-5 day on the stall handing out information leaflets, posters, and membership forms. We smothered a huge backboard with photos and posters. I don't think the public looked upon our masterpiece as more than pretty wallpaper, but they did show a gratifying degree of interest in astronomy, churning up the contents of the table and carrying off a large quantity of leaflets. Roll on tomorrow-the second day of the show! Now for a well-earned rest and back to the fray tomorrow!

Rosemary Pears, Secretary.

Croydon Astronomical Society

Members of The Croydon Astronomical Society followed up their success in observing the transit of Mercury last year from their Observatory at Kenley with observations of the transit of Venus this year. Around 50 members, friends, visitors & passers by saw the transit using a variety of techniques from eclipse glasses to a 6' high projected image inside our clubhouse. Members also observed the transit from Cyprus, and the top of La Palma.

This June saw the 25th anniversary of our observatory which we are celebrating later in the year. We have applied to the National Lottery, Awards for All for money to replace our existing 18" f4 telescope with a smaller computerised telescope. There are several reasons for this, the principal one is that the eyepiece of the existing telescope is too high for the public to get to when observing near the Zenith. Being able to find objects more quickly as well as getting more room in the dome for visiting groups will also be of benefit. If anyone is interested in an 18" f4 telescope and has a crane to remove it please contact us.

John Murrell, Chairman

Leicester Astronomical Society

The Leicester Astronomical Society (LAS) has held a number of highly successful public observing sessions at the National Space Centre, Leicester. The most recent was to observe the Transit of Venus on June 8. Leicester AS members found themselves 'starring' on local and national television and radio. First contact was awaited with bated breath and once it had occurred, everyone could relax a little in the knowledge that something had been seen even if the clouds were now to arrive in force. But they didn't! The occasional patch of high cloud drifted over but nothing to spoil the occasion. The only complaint - it was too hot! Many members of the public came along and showed great interest. The parties of school children were a little more worrying. Although their enthusiasm is overwhelming, some youngsters don't seem to realise that a telescope tripod is NOT a climbing frame!

2004 has marked yet another very rare phenomenon! Leicester AS has finally beaten Hinckley and District AS at the annual skittles match! The significance of this in the light of the recent transit of Venus is not lost on members. Two extremely rare events in one year! And remember that transits of Venus come in pairs! (Forget the 8 year gap though!)

The Society holds meetings twice a month (normally the 2nd and 4th Tuesday) at the National Space Centre, Leicester. Observing sessions are held on some Saturdays at Mill Lane, Blaby near Leicester and occasionally by arrangement with the rangers at Beacon Hill Country Park between Leicester and Loughborough. Trips to places of astronomical and more general interest are arranged. This year we have visited Lincoln Observatory and the Museum of the History of Science at Oxford.

Further details; Ann Bonell, 53 Wardens Walk, Leicester Forest East, Leics. LE3 3GG. Tel. 0116 2394481 email: john-bonell@53le33gg.freemove.co.uk

Yorkshire Astromind

Saturday October 9th 2004 will see the Yorkshire Astromind held at the Blackburn Leisure Social Club, Brough, and will be hosted jointly by Blackburn Leisure Astronomical Society and Hull & East Riding Astronomical Society.

The competition will begin at 1 pm, with contestants coming from astronomical societies across Yorkshire to compete for the Radio Leeds Cup. The competition will be over 5 rounds of questions, testing all round astronomical knowledge.

This is the first time in 10 years the competition has been held in the Hull area and is regarded as a stern test of astronomical knowledge, under question master (and multiple Astromind winner) Neil Haggath, of the Cleveland & Darlington Astronomical Society.

For further details, please contact webmaster@heras.org.uk

SOCIETY ROUND UP

ABINGDON AS

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

- 11 Oct Ms Judit Brody 'History of Sunspots'
- 18 Oct Beginners Meeting
- 8 Nov Stan Cocking Memorial Lecture: by Dr Allan Chapman 'Lord Rosse: the Astronomer of the Spirals'
- 15 Nov Beginners Meeting
- 13 Dec Prof. Mike Edmunds 'Sir Isaac Newton Remembers'
- 20 Dec Beginners Meeting
- 10 Jan Prof. Richard Harrison (RAL), 'Oxfordshire's Space Centre'
- 17 Jan Beginners Meeting

AS OF HARINGEY

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

- 21-Oct AGM & Venus Transit Retrospect
- 18-Nov Michael Franks, Astrolabes
- 9-Dec Christmas Meeting and Mat Irvine: "M.A.T. III"
- 18-Jan TBC

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. Contact Simon Foster on 01844 216108 www.aylesbury-astronomy.org.uk

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. Lectures at Aston University, Rm 146 at 7.30 pm. www.birmingham-astronomy.co.uk
26-Oct Uranographica Britannica, Kevin Kilburn
30-Nov The Day They Launched a Woodpecker, Jerry Stone

BRADFORD AS

Meetings held at Eccleshill Library, Bolton Road, Bradford at 7.30 pm
Contact Hilary on 01274 672570 or John on 01274 419142 www.bradford-astro.freemove.co.uk

- 11-Oct An Online Demonstration of Robotic Telescopes, Dr. J. Baruch
- 25-Oct The Search for ET, Dr. H. Osborne
- 08-Nov TBA, Rod Hine
- 22-Nov The Private Lives of Asteroids, Prof. L. Wilson
- 06-Dec The Outer Giants, Paul Money
- 20-Dec Festive Fun

BRISTOL AS

Meetings held weekly on Fridays from October 8th to December 10th at 19:15 at Bristol Grammar School. See our new web site at <http://www.bristolastro.org.uk> or phone 0117 968 5023 for details.
22 Oct The Dark Universe, Dr Rodney Hillier, U of Bristol
5 Nov Observing the Sun, Lee McDonald, BAA Solar Section
19 Nov The Faulkes Telescope, Dr Lucie Green, Cardiff University
3 Dec The Star of Bethlehem, Rod Jenkins, Bristol Astronomical Society

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

CLACTON & DISTRICT ASTRONOMICAL AS

Meetings first thursday September to July, 7.30pm. at the Friend's Meeting House, Granville Road, Clacton-on-Sea. Contact David Pugh (Secretary) Tel.01255 429849. www.clactonastro.org.uk

CLEVELAND & DARLINGTON AS

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

CORNWALL AS

Meets second and fourth Tuesdays of the month 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm at the Godolphin Club, Wendron Street, Helston.
Contacts: Robert Beeman 01326 341164 www.CornwallAS.org.uk
e-mail info@CornwallAS.org.uk

COTSWOLD AS

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

- 9-Oct "Galaxies and Active Galactic Nuclei", Dr Chris Baddiley
- 13-Nov "Space 2005; space missions taking place in the coming year", Andy Salmon, Midlands Spaceflight Society
- 11-Dec Christmas Meeting
- 8-Jan "Focusing in the Sky", Professor Sir Michael Berry FRS, Bristol University

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE AS

Meetings are at Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall, Earlsdon Rd South, Coventry, commencing at 7:15 PM.

Contact: Steve Payne 02476 474227

- 8 Oct Nick Hewitt, "What's in a Name"
- 12 Nov Ian King, "Wide Field CCD Imaging"
- 3 Dec Members Evening

CROYDON AS

Lectures at Lower Lecture Theatre, Great Hall, Royal Russell School, Coombe Lane, Croydon, Surrey.

19:45 to 22:00 Every Second Friday from: 10th September 2004 to 17th December 2004, and from 7th January 2005 to 18th March 2005 inclusive. Also Public Observing Evenings at our Observatory at Kenley most Saturdays from 11th September 2004 - check our recorded message on 020 8668 9642 before travelling. No charge - donations only - Visitors Welcome - if you are nearby come and see us. Lecture details plus lots more on our web site at www.croydonastro.org. Phone Contact: John Murrell 020 8647 5490

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

THE AS OF EDINBURGH

Ordinary meetings take place at 8pm in the City Dome of the City Observatory, Calton Hill (usually on the first Friday of the month). Any changes to our meeting arrangements will be put on our website www.astronomyedinburgh.org and on the answering machine at the observatory (556 4365).

EWELL AS

Meets 2nd Friday each month at St Mary's Church Hall, Ewell. Secretary; Richard Gledhill, tel. 0208-393-1068

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

HEBDEN BRIDGE AS

Venue - Hope Baptist Church rooms (opp.the cinema) Hebden Bridge. Meetings are at 7.30 pm on Wednesdays as shown below. Visit the groups website www.hbas.org.uk. Meeting queries ring (01422) 378368 (Len Entwistle - HBAS Secretary)

- Sep 15 John Nichol (Nichol Optical) "Telescope Mirror Making"
- Oct 13 Dr. Paul Marston, "Johannes Kepler - Lunatic or What?"
- Oct 27 Members' Evening (Slides , video , drawings , equipment etc)
- Nov 10 Rod Hine (Bradford A.S.) "Astrobiology for beginners..."
- Dec 8 Prof. John Dyson (University of Leeds) "Starburst Galaxies"

HUDDERSFIELD ASTRO. & PHIL. SOCIETY

Meetings at Club Room, 4A Railway Street, Huddersfield, starting 7.30 www.huddersfieldastronomy.org.uk

- 1 Oct 'The Sun' – Dr. Robert Walsh
- 8 Oct 'Building the Observatory' – Philip Heppenstall
- 29 Oct 'WIMPs, MACHOs & Other Strange Inhabitants of the Universe' – Marcus Armitage
- 5 Nov 'Edwin Hubble' – Robert Williams
- 12 Nov 'The Winter Night Sky' – Robert Williams
- 26 Nov Slide Show – Paul Harper
- 3 Dec TBA
- 10 Dec Slide Show – Paul Haigh
- 7 Jan 'Diving for Neutrinos – the ANTARES Underwater Neutrino Telescope' – Dr Lee Thompson – The University of Sheffield
- 14 Jan Talk – TBA – Gary Dyson

HULL & EAST RIDING AS

Contact webmaster@heras.org.uk

11 Oct TBA

8 Nov Rother Valley Optics

13 Dec Dr Michael Martin-Smith

10 Jan Mr Paul Money of Boston, Lincs - Mercury

ILKESTON & DISTRICT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

All meetings take place at the Erewhash Museum, Ilkeston, starting at 7-45p.m. Contact for further details, Mary McNulty 01298 78234.

12 Oct Andrew Green "One Small Step"

9 Nov Brian Griffin TBA

14 Dec AGM & Christmas Party

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 leed-sastronomy.org.uk

Leeds Astromet, Saturday November 6th, Brunswick Building, Leeds Metropolitan University

13-Oct Archeology & Astronomy, Melvyn Taylor

10-Nov Deuterium in Space, Prof. Tom Millar

08-Dec Presidential Address

LIVERPOOL AS

Venue for monthly meetings is the Roman Catholic Cathedral's Crypt Concert Room, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Meetings commence at 7pm until 9pm. 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. Contact Andrew Robertson (01373-874175) or Charles Munton (020-8889-9253)

las-astro.org.uk

7-Oct Widefield CCD Imaging, Ian King

14-Oct Changing Perspectives of Mars, Jerry Workman

28-Oct The 2003 Mars Missions, Jerry Workman

11-Nov Observatories of Arizona, Chris Jones

18-Nov Observing the Moon, Alan Wells

25-Nov Transits of Mercury & Venus from the Middle East, Kelvin Stephens

9-Dec Winter Skies, Andrew Robertson / Charles Munton

MILTON KEYNES AS

Meetings are held at Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes on alternate Fridays, 8 pm. For further information, contact: David Mainwaring (Secretary and Librarian) tel. 01908 563051, Mike Leggett (Publicity Officer) tel. 01908 503692, E-mail: mike-pat-leggett@shenley9.fsnet.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

PAPWORTH AS

Meetings are held in the large meeting room of Upper Pendrill Court, Papworth Everard, nr Huntingdon, at 7:30PM, unless noted. The meeting room is above the village library. Contact Details for Committee: Mike Stephens - 01353 669278, mike@sulis.demon.co.uk, Keith Tritton - 01767 677219, kpt2@tutor.open.ac.uk, Peter Sandford - 01480 830729, peter@cheere.demon.co.uk

6 Oct Dave Eagle, observing evening on the Papworth Playing Fields

3 Nov Neil Parker will speak on the Arizona Sky Village

1 Dec Dr Sarah Symons, Ancient Egyptian Astronomy

SCARBOROUGH & DISTRICT AS

Contact Jon Harper 01723 500389 E-mail jonvran@aol.com

Website <http://www.scarborough-as.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.shropshire-astro.com

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

Contact Stuart Williams, secretary@shastro.org.uk, www.shastro.org.uk

Oct 9 - Autumn meeting at Birmingham & Midland Institute, Birmingham, 11.00 to 17.30.

SOLENT AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Meetings are in Room 8, Oaklands Centre, Lordshill, Southampton

Contact Ken Medway 02380 582204, ken@medway1875.freemove.co.uk,

Website www.delscope.demon.co.uk

Oct 19 A.G.M.

Nov 16 Planetary Nebulae Dr Stewart Moore

Dec 21 More Digital Images, Nik Symanek

Jan 18 Dr Kathryn Gunn, XMM Mission

SOUTHAMPTON AS

Formal meeting on 2nd Thursday of each month from 7.30pm at the Astronomy Dept, Southampton University Physics Building. Informal meeting on 4th Thursday of each month from 7.30pm at the members' homes around the area. Contacts: Michael Hobbs - Treasurer SAS (023 8032 7952), Lawrence Harris - Publicity officer (023 8090 8488)

14 Oct Prof Ian McHardy 'Black Holes'

11 Nov Gerald Ponting - Stone circles

9 Dec Film show

STAFFORD & DISTRICT AS

Meetings held at Weston Road High School, Stafford. 19.15

L Hodgkinson, 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.

13 Oct "Autumn Star Party".

26 Oct "Imaging the Heartbeat of the Sun", by Prof. Yvonne Elsworth.

10 Nov "Observing Tips".

23 Nov "Wish You Were Here", by Dr. Lilian Hobbs.

14 Dec "Discovering Transient and Moving Objects Using the Transit Method", by Dr. Peter Wheatley.

SWANSEA AS

Meetings held at 7.00 pm in lecture theatre C of the Science Tower Block at the University of Wales Campus at Swansea.

14 Oct Echoes of the Big Bang, Dr. Warren Perkin

26 Oct Astrophotography – Digital Imaging, Mr. Martin Chick

11 Nov Dr. Lucie Green

25 Nov Jeremiah Horrocks, Dr. John Birks

9 Dec Astronomy from and Aeroplane: How & Why ? Dr. Rhodri Evans

13 Jan Looking Down: Remote sensing on the Earth & Planets, Mr. Colin Gravelle

27 Jan What goes on at CERN, Prof. Simon Hands.

TIVERTON AS

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

1 Oct Brian Thomas – Arthur C Clarke

5 Nov Dr Caroline Smith – Geology Of The Solar System

3 Dec Jonathan Davies – A View Of The Dark Side

TULLAMORE AS

Meetings in the Order of Malta Training Room, Tanyard, Tullamore, Co. Offaly @ 8 p.m. on 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month. (This may change at AGM – check website to confirm). Contact: Sean Morris (Secretary), Email: tasnewsletter@go.com, home: www.tullamoreastronomy.com COSMOS 2005 - April 1st to 3rd in Annaghavary Equestrian Farm.

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 M20 2PQ. Contact Phil Brocklebank (0161 973 5323) or Lionel Cox (07850 426234). <http://groups.msn.com/westdidsburyastronomicalsociety>

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 Mr Sydney Crump (tel 01299 871606), email secretary@wolvast.org.uk. www.wolvast.org.uk

YORK AS

Meetings are held in the Denham Room, The Priory Street Centre, York, Meetings start at 7.30 for 8pm. Contact Hazel on 07944 751277

01-Oct AGM + Dr P Thompson, The Solar System Cycle Route in York

15-Oct Chris Lintott. Cosmology for the Terrified

05-Nov Informal night.

19-Nov Dr Helen Smillett. Strings & Things (made easy)

03-Nov Bob Mizon. Light Pollution & what we can do to win back our Dark Skies

07-Dec Informal Night. Everyone welcome to see what the members have been doing & a chance to ask questions & help

Please check details of events with the organising society before travelling. The FAS is not responsible for any inaccuracies.

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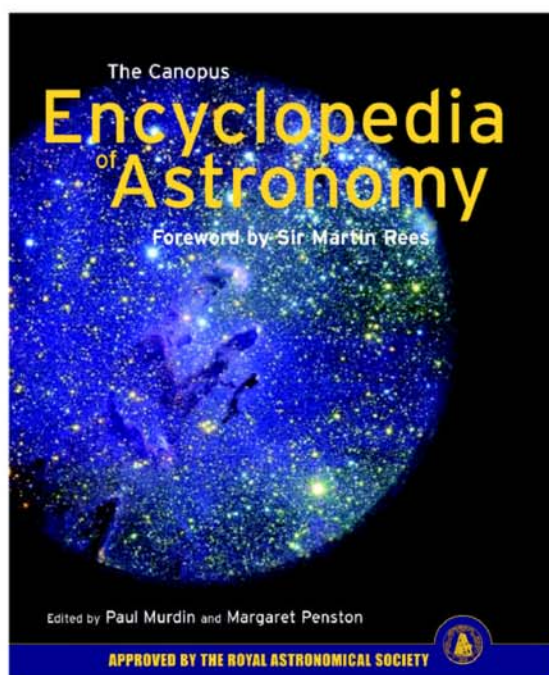
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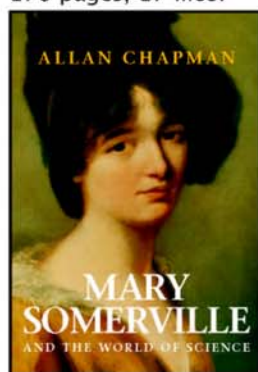
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