There is money out there then!

With the benefit of a grant from their local council, Salford A S have just acquired an LX90 (8") Meade fully computerised telescope.

Also, West Yorkshire A S have just had a grant from Awards For All toward a 14" Meade. This brings the total grant funds received in the last 5 years to £85,000.

Birmingham A S Lose Observatory to Vandals and Fire

The Birmingham A S Observatory at the Priory School was destroyed by fire on the evening of 26th July. It appears that vandals broke in, smashed equipment and started a fire inside the building. As well as the Society’s telescope and computer, a few members’ telescopes and equipment were also lost. Although the Fire Brigade attended the scene, the building and dome were burnt out and there is little or nothing to be salvaged. The society was covered by Insurance and the Fire Services and Insurance Assessors considering the situation.

The observatory housed a computerised Meade 10" telescope with CCD camera and associated computer equipment, a portable 14" Dobsonian and several other instruments. The telescope and camera were obtained by means of an "Awards For All" grant from the National Lottery. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham opened it in the spring of 2002 after several years of hard work by members to obtain planning consent and then construct the building itself.

The 2005 FAS CONVENTION
& ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
1st October 2005
At the Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, Cambridge
First of all I would like to counter any accusations of nepotism (if that is the right word!!). The less than astute reader will observe that there are several articles in this issue related to my home county—Cornwall.

The review of the PST, by John Durston, can be put down to me—it resulted from an evangelical (FAS-type) visit to the Callington club. The article on the Ken Bennett enterprise, however, was sent to me by Joy Griffiths from the Dark Skies group.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all members of the FAS to attend the Annual Convention at Cambridge on Saturday 1st October. A really good programme of speakers has been arranged and there will be trade stands and a live Faulkes Telescope demo during the lunch break. In my opinion it is worth going to this event for the tour of the historic site at IoA alone, which also takes place during the lunch break.

We know that for many of you Cambridge is not the easiest place to get to, me included, but I am confident that all the visitors will feel it very rewarding.

See you there then - OK?.

Liverpool Astronomical Society, were involved in a major series of events held within Liverpool Cathedral.

The Society held a join display and information desk with the BAA Campaign for Dark Skies, who were represented by local officer Gerard Gilligan.

During a special School’s day of events on June 8th, 500 children from 15 local schools were able to see a demonstration of how the problem of Light Pollution is adversely affecting the science of astronomy.

A group of members from Salford A S using the LX90 obtained as a result of a successful grant application.

Liverpool A S and Campaign for Dark Skies

A six day journey to the Western Desert of Egypt, one of the best viewpoints in the eclipse’s path.

For more information

www.windsandstars.co.uk
So it is my turn to provide some background about myself, something I don’t mind doing as most of my friends know!

I’m 22 year old Brummie. I recently completed my MSci in Physics and Astrophysics at the University of Birmingham and I now have the privilege of being able to continue in area of Astrophysics as a PhD student. I am also a keen amateur astronomer (is this starting to sound like a singles advert?? If so I am after someone with a good sense of humour, knowledge of astronomer and not afraid to go to dark places!), though if I am honest I am much better at accessing data taken by a large telescope than taking my own!

I have now been in the job of publicity officer for almost two years, I very much enjoy being on the council of the FAS (oh and if you see the pictures of the council I’m the young “scruffy” one with all my own hair!).

As for my amateur astronomy interests I was the Chair of the University of Birmingham Astronomical Society for almost two years and their treasurer for about the same length of time. I am very proud with what we have achieved their and we have probably one of the best University based societies in the county there (if I do say so myself!). I am also a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. I also love giving talks; I get huge satisfaction out of this – especially to young student groups.

Most of my time over the last few years has been taken up with being a student, so you can guess what that means (hard-work, drink, take-out…). I have also made time to run my own website (http://www.krioma.net), where I essentially write my thoughts and things I find during the course of my life (which inevitably involves quite a bit of astronomy). This is something that gives me great pleasure. I do, however, wonder who reads it but according to my site statistics quite a few people do so I can’t moan.

Oh and if you are wondering what the heck the photo is about, it is me at the Reading Festival last year after having too little sleep, a bit too much caffeine, mud and sunshine! You just have to love living in a tent with 60,000 others listening to rock music.

This article is my experiences with the Coronado PST (Personal Solar Telescope), I have also asked a colleague and fellow member of the Callington Community Astronomy Group for his thoughts on the PST after owning his for a month now.

Knowing what I know now would I have bought the telescope in the first place – most definitely.

For me the sun has always held an interest, its our nearest star who’s proximity gives us the opportunity to study it in detail. Several years ago I was more than happy just looking at sunspots in white light, watching them grow, fade and move from day to day. Then on a day course at the Normal locker observatory, the Lockyer refractor was fitted with a Hydrogen Alpha (Ha for short) filter. Though this telescope I saw part of the sun with a number of faculae on the limb looking like trees on a distant horizon. This view ignited a spark of interest in Ha, but deep down the realisation that the cost of Ha telescopes made the likelihood of affording my own scope extremely remote.

In January 2004 as my thoughts turned towards the Transit of Venus, it dawned on me, wouldn’t it be something to witness this event in Hydrogen alpha. I had seen the adverts in Sky and Telescope in late 2003 introducing Coronado’s new baby and decided to find out more about this instrument. After discovering the ticket price was expected to be in the region of $500, I pre-ordered my PST with OPT in the states. There were two reasons for the importing the scope from America, the first being if anyone was going to get PSTs before the transit it would be an American supplier, secondly a strong pound. With the money saved I was also able to get an 18mm CEMAX eyepiece. All I had to do was wait and as it turned out, wait and wait. As June approached the Coronado message board was full questions about the PST delivery schedule. The reason for the delays was design modifications to add a tuneable filter. This was originally planned to be introduced in an updated PST later in the production run. A week after watching the transit in white light the PST arrived.

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My first impression was one of surprise, the PST was bigger and heavier than I had imagined. With the exception of the nylon eye-piece retaining screw the telescope is an all metal construction, finished to a high quality. The black body and the gold tube makes this

(Continued on page 5)
However, he says he doesn’t have the technical expertise to choose domes (see photograph). Of four planned lodges, one is complete. He has built a run of four observatories under his beautiful skies in Cornwall, decided to build a multiple observatory site. As “the owner or manager of a business enterprise who, by risk and initiative, attempts to make profits”, well, there’s nothing wrong with making a profit (“excess of revenues over outlays and expenses”). It’s essential to any project that it make a profit if it’s to move forward. In the fast-moving scientific world, it’s not enough to ‘make do’ with soon-outdated equipment. Besides, even when Ken realises his dream, he has put so much into it, financially and physically (with full support and co-operation of his wife, Muriel) that it will be a long time before he will be in the wonderful position of being able to consider how to make the best use of profits for the enhancement of his multiple observatory site.

Ken Bennett retired from his position as a nuclear engineer at Devonport Dock in 1987, where he had supervised a team preparing all the equipment for the first refuelling of nuclear-powered submarine HMS Swiftsure, and also trained teams performing the refuel. On retirement, he took up pig farming - until swine fever and government-imposed restrictions and legislation made his farming activities unprofitable. He has built a run of four observatories, complete. Its site potential is good, set in the heart of the Cornish countryside, at the top of a gently sloping, south-facing hillside. Experts, including Mike Willmott, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, have the confidence and time to work with the equipment in fulfilling our objectives, i.e. the astronomers or organisation would give the advice, together with great enthusiasm from some of the local notable astronomers but they are heavily involved with their own work to afford time to realise the best of the great potential of my observatory. It is also very important that the astronomers who give the advice, have the confidence and time to work with the equipment in fulfilling our objectives, i.e. the astronomers or organisation would give the long term expertise and committed time that is of so much importance.” He wants the facility to be put to good use. He hopes that, with the necessary state-of-the-art equipment, “...it will attract every kind of stargazer - from schoolchildren to graduates, when it’s completed” and that youngsters will be enabled to establish a lifelong interest in the sciences. This is Ken’s prime motivation. It’s well-known that centuries of star-gazers have been inspired by their vision of the heavens to want to know more about the science involved.

The location of the multiple observatory is near Liskeard, Cornwall. Its site potential is good, set in the heart of the Cornish countryside, at the top of a gently sloping, south-facing hillside. Experts, including Mike Willmott, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, have the confidence and time to work with the equipment in fulfilling our objectives, i.e. the astronomers or organisation would give the long term expertise and committed time that is of so much importance.” He wants the facility to be put to good use. He hopes that, with the necessary state-of-the-art equipment, “...it will attract every kind of stargazer - from schoolchildren to graduates, when it’s completed” and that youngsters will be enabled to establish a lifelong interest in the sciences. This is Ken’s prime motivation. It’s well-known that centuries of star-gazers have been inspired by their vision of the heavens to want to know more about the science involved.

June 2005

Cardiff Astronomical Society 30th Anniversary Convention Saturday October 15th

Speakers:
Professor Monica Grady (Natural History Museum)
Dr Alan Fitzsimmons (Queen’s University, Belfast)
Dr Paul Roche (Cardiff University)
Nik Szymanski

and also

Faithes Telescope Session at lunchtime and a display of lunar samples and meteorites (courtesy of The Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council), with trade stands in attendance.

Venue:
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Cardiff University, The Parade, Newport Road, Cardiff

Commencing at: 09.30

Admission: FREE and a warm welcome to all!

Further information from:
Assistant Secretary, Theresa Cooper Tel: 01636 646920
or visit the web site at: http://www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org

Leeds Astronomical Society Astromeet 2005
2005 November 12, Saturday

10th Anniversary, at the Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, Leeds University, Woodhouse Lane.

Doors open 9.00am, first speaker 10.00am

Speakers include: Dr. Allan Chapman, Prof John Dyson
Prof Clive Ruggles, Prof Sir Arnold Wolfendale
Prof Lionel Wilson.

Trade stalls.

Admission fee: TBA.

For further information see: www.leedsastronomy.org.uk

(Continued on page 5)
Dear Editor,
As most of your members will know, there is an annular eclipse here on the morning of October 3rd this year and at present I have 4 eclipse chasers coming out here to the province of Valencia to view it. I live in Oliva, a small Spanish town located on the coast between Alicante and Valencia, and have local B&B contacts for anyone coming out to view the eclipse and wishing to find accommodation. Valencia is the closest airport for arrivals.

Mike Glazier
Javea and District Astronomical Society
Tel: 0034 96 285 3202  e-mail mikeonmars@jazzfree.com
Address: Calle de la Cantereria 35, Oliva, 46780.Valencia, Spain

Apart from the completed observatories, there will be four holiday lodges, each with four bedrooms, plus two en suite showers and a family bathroom. Kitchens will be fully fitted, and Lodges will have full central heating. Both the observatory and lodges are wheelchair-friendly. One Lodge is built, and is being fitted out in readiness for use. Building of the others is scheduled for completion in December 2005. Two Lodges will have priority for observatory use. Ken has named the observatory Steren Kernow - Cornish for Cornwall Star.

The initiative has had some banking advice and financial backing, but they are keen to see progress on the investment and, of course, sooner rather than later.

Expert guidance and further funding for the observatory if it is to fulfil its potential, is now urgent for him to complete the project. Having already spent “hundreds of thousands of pounds” on his venture, he now needs “…others to come in and make it happen.” Finally, Ken says “Certainly, the more astronomers who might like to become involved in this embryonic observatory, the better. All I can wish for is that they are able to "jell" together. I believe that eventually the observatory could become commercial rather than a charitable trust and those involved could benefit from their own efforts. My own expectations could be modest because after nearly eight years to reach this stage I would rather the project became a success, and that would give the greatest satisfaction.”

Ken’s contacted details are: kenbennet@ukonline.co.uk

(Continued from page 3)
instrument look something special. The PST not a budget Ha scope, but a Ha scope at a budget price.

For once the demon of the new equipment curse was not paying attention and it was sunny on the day of delivery. First light can be summed up in one simple word WOW. A year on this is still the best way of putting the experience into words.

The 40mm objective might seem small but the sun is large and bright. This telescope opens up the dynamic world of the sun. In Ha the sun can be observed changing by the hour. Through the PST prominences, flares, plages, filaments, granulation and spicules are visible. So what view does the telescope deliver, the inbuilt finder makes finding the sun a reasonably simple task. Once in the field of view the orange disk is focused using the small focusing knob on the rear of the telescope. Once in focus the tunable filter can be used to adjust the view and bring out the detail on the sun by turning ring at the base. As the filter is turned different features are visible. The delicate arc of prominences can be seen in detail as they loop across the sun's limb show. The filaments show up as dark fluctuating lines across the solar disk whilst granulation gives the solar surface the appearance of an orange skin. Plages are normally located near sunspots and are visible as large white/yellow patches on the sun. Each of these features slide in and out of view as the filter is turned. A point can be reached where all of these be seen together but with quite without the detail of when the filter is tuned specifically for them.

Depending on the eyepiece used a sweet spot can be noticed where detail is more evident then on the rest of the solar disk. This is more noticeable with higher magnifications. A similar effect was noted in the Sky and Telescope review of the PST last year.

Although the PST is predominantly a visual telescope, photographs can be taken afocally using a digital compact camera. Even though the sun is bright a camera adaptor increases the success rate of photographs taken using this method. There is not enough focus travel to allow my web cam or DSLR to achieve focus with out additional optics like a Barlow lens. The settings used on the camera differ from model to model some cameras requiring exposure compensation to be set for best results whilst others do not. This must be done the sensitivity of the chip in the camera.

Can the PST be improved. The telescope is supplied with a 12.5mm Kelner eyepiece, that I have only used three times, twice when I got the scope and once when writing this to refresh my memory as to why I don’t use it. The view using the Kelner is acceptable but not brilliant. Most of us will have a decent quality Possel eyepiece, put this into the PST and the image of the sun is improved drastically. Add a Baader contrast booster or similar to the Plossel and the views are incredible. The Meade zoom eyepiece works well in the PST allowing the magnification to be adjusted to match the sky conditions.

The CEMAX eyepiece works well providing high contrast views of the surface detail, but similar results are obtained with Possel and contrast filter arrangement.

One useful gadget is the PST screen made by Astro-engineering. This casts a shadow over the eyepiece making observing far more comfortable, although Simon has found a baseball cap has the same effect.

Because I use my PST on a standard photographic tripod the Orion slow motion control head has proved very useful. The main disadvantage of this it does not support the whole weight of the PST and a heavy camera without slipping.

Whoever in Coronado had the idea of producing a budget priced Ha deserves my warmest thanks for enabling me and others like me to enter into the world of Hydrogen Alpha solar observing at an attainable price.

The PST is a must for anyone interesting in the sun and I wouldn’t be without mine. Give me a sunny day and the PST and you have defined happiness.
SOCIETY ROUND UP

ABINGDON AS
Abingdon AS at the Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon, at 8.00pm. For more details telephone Bob Dryden 01491 231620 or visit our website www.abingdonas.org.uk

AS OF HAREINGE
Meetings generally 3rd Thursday at Ashmole School, Southgate, London N14, at 7.30 pm www.ashastro.org.uk

ANDOVER AS
Meet at the Scout Hut, Oakfield Road, Aylesbury.
Contact Simon Foster on 01844 216108 www.aylesbury-astronomy.org.uk

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

BIRKENHEAD AS
Meetings held at the Beacon Hill Observatory, Cleethorpes, start at 7.30pm. Gary Marriot
Tim Horbury
Dec 22: The Wonders of the Aurora
Oct 20: Where were you 21:30 on 27 Dec 04
Contact: John Dee 01253 820660 or 07973 142779 (mobile)
E-mail: cytron@btinternet.com

CRAWLEY AS
Meetings held on the 3rd Monday of every month at the Institute of Physics, 120 Reigate Road
Contact: John Whiteman 01293 550155
E-mail: jwhiteman@btinternet.com

CREEKERN & DISTRICT AS (CADAS)
Meet at the Godolphin Club, George Street, Dumfries 7 to 9.30 pm. For details contact the Secretary Paul Scaife, email: astrogen@astrogen.karoo.co.uk

EAGLESBURNE AS
Meetings at the Guildford Institute, Ward Street, Guildford on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm.
Contact: Anthony Emanti, tel. 01481 247193
E-mail: anthonyemanti@wanadoo.co.uk

EASTBOURNE AS
Meetings are followed by a tour and observing (weather permitting) at Recreation Centre near Attleborough, Norfolk at 7.30 PM.
Further details and a full contact list are available on our website at www.eastbourneas.org.uk

EAST MIDLANDS AS
Open Meetings are on the second Friday of each month at Great Ellingham Recreation Centre near Attleborough, Norfolk at 7.30 PM.
Details of meeting can be found in the local press and on our website.
Contact: Peter Gill, tel. 01324 646853, email: pjb.gill@btinternet.com or 01387 269762

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COTSWOLD AS
Meet every Saturday of every month at Shurdington Church Hall, Shurdington, Cheltenham. 7.45 pm. Contact Duncan Willoughby 01452 416405)
www.cotswoldas.org.uk

CRAWLEY AS
Meet 3rd Friday of every month (excl July & Aug) at Ifield Community Centre. 7.30 pm. (December dates can be variable)
Contact: Jim Swift 01293 562505 or 07973 142779 (mobile)
E-mail: cytron@btinternet.com

EASTBOURNE AS
Meetings last Friday of the month. Harlow Community Centre, Harlow Ave.
Contact: Lyn Smith 01937 531171 lynsmithbridgehouse@hotmail.com

EAST MIDLANDS AS
Meetings are followed by a tour and observing (weather permitting) at Recreation Centre near Attleborough, Norfolk at 7.30 PM.
Further details and a full contact list are available on our website at www.eastbourneas.org.uk

GUILDFORD AS
Meet at the Guildford Institute, Ward Street, Guildford on the 1st Thursday of each month (bar August).
Contact: John Astell. 01932 341036 johnastell42@aol.com

HARROGATE AS
Meetings last Friday of the month. Harlow Community Centre, Harlow Ave.
Contact: Lyn Smith 01937 531171 lynsmithbridgehouse@hotmail.com

HAVENING AS
Meetings last Friday of the month. Harlow Community Centre, Harlow Ave.
Contact: Lyn Smith 01937 531171 lynsmithbridgehouse@hotmail.com

HEDDERSFIELD ASTRO. & PHIL. SOCIETY
Meetings at Observatory and Town Hall. www.heddersfieldastronomy.co.uk

HULL & EAST RIDING AS
Meet 2nd Monday of the month, 7.30-9.30 pm, from September to May. University of Hull, Wilberforce Building, Room SR 110
Contact: N Swetez, 58 Exeter Street, Cottingham, HU16 4LU
Sharon Long, Secretary. Email: charon@charon.karoo.co.uk

HULL & EAST RIDING AS
Meetings start at 7.30pm at the Teachers Training College, Stranmillis, Belfast.
Contact: Johns Hall e-mail: jimmysaurus6@btinternet.com

JERSEY AC
Meet 2nd Monday of the month, 8.00pm at St Patrick Moore Astronomy Centre, Les Creux Country park, St Brelade.
Contact: Eileen Besnard, 01534 860802  e-mail: hakmat@jerseymail.co.uk

LEEDS AS
Centenary House, North Street, Leeds between 7.00 pm and 9.30 pm
Mailbox: xavier@leedskastronomy.org.uk
14 Sep:  Edwin Hubble: Architect of the Universe Robert Williams
12 Oct: Mined over Dark Matter Peter Edwards
9 Nov:  An Astronomer’s Reflections Mark Simpson

LEITCHWORTH & DISTRICT AS
Meets last Wednesday of the month at Pinston Hall, Leitchworth: 7:45pm
Contact: Nick Ellis  e-mail: ellis.nick@virgin.net

LIVERPOOL AS
Venue for monthly meetings is the Roman Catholic Cathedral’s Crypt Concert Room, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Meetings commence at 7pm to 9pm.
Secretary: Tel 0151 638 3270 or e-mail: clarklunar@aol.com
16 Sep:  Presidential Address David Galvin
21 Oct:  Astronomy from a Boeing 747 Dr Rhodri Evans
18 Nov:  The camera Obscura Mike frost

LOUGHTON AS
Meeting every Thursday at 8.00 pm, in the Scout Hall, Loughton Lane, Theydon Bois, Essex. Contact Jerry Workman (0208-507-7568)

LOWESTOFT & GT YARMOUTH RA (LYRA)
Tues 18th Feb AGM
Meetings normally take place on the 2nd Thur at the Sunrise Inn in Corton Road. All meetings begin at 8pm.
Richard Chilvers: 28 Blyford road, Lowestoft 01502 57401
email: good.goat@tiscali.co.uk www.lyra.gb.net

MARR AS
Meets last Tuesday of the month at 1930, Learney Arms Hotel, Torphins.
Observational meetings as weather permits
Contact David Pattullo, wolfsclat@dialstart.net
www.freewebs.com/marrastro

MID KENT AS
Meetings of the society are held twice a month at The Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, off The Street, Bredhurst, Kent
Contact: 01634 308035 email m.morrison-smith@lineone.net
http://www.mkas-site.co.uk
Sept 9  Nik Smymanke: Astronomical Imaging from Hawaii
Sept 30  Peter Farish: Constellation of the month

MILTON KEYNES AS
Meetings are held at Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes on alternate Fridays, starting at 8:00 pm.
Sue 2  Vahid Deepan and Suzanne Miles
Oct 28  Black Holes are real Dr Paul Murdin
Astroneets on 29 Apr, 24 June, 22 July, 14 Oct, 11 Nov.

MORAY AS
Meetings 1st Friday of every month starting at 7.30PM at Elgin High School, New Elgin, Morayshire. Observing Evenings every Friday from mid-September to the last Friday of the month 2005.
Contact: Neil Purves 01466 771371 or ian@branters
freeerve.co.uk Web site: http://www.sigma-astro.co.uk

NORTH EAST LONDON AS
Meetings 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

NORTH ESSEX AS
Public meetings 7.30pm on the third Thursday of every month (excluding August & December) at the BT Exchange Social Hall in Collingham Road, Witham.
For more information contact (01376) 521897.
www.neaes.org.uk

ORWELL AS
email ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk  www.ast.cam.ac.uk /'ipswich
Roy Gooding (Secretary) 01473-432977

PAPWORTH ASTRONOMY CLUB
Meets at Upper Pendle Court, Papworth Everard, nr Huntingdon on the first Wednesday of every month at 19.30. Upper Pendle Court, Papworth Everard, nr Huntingdon.
Contact Keith Tritton - phone 01767 677219, email kpt2@utor.open.ac.uk
7 Sep - Magnetic Observations of Saturn Nick Achillios
5 Oct - 10 Minute talks Club Members
2 Nov - Observing Evening
7 Dec - Seasonal Event

PORT TALBOT AS
Meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month at 7.15pm, at Mozart Drive Community Centre, Sandfields, Port Talbot.
Contact: Andrew Short (secretary) - phone 01639 765146

SALFORD AS
Meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month at 7.15pm, at Mozart Drive Community Centre, Sandfields, Port Talbot.
Contact: Andrew Short (secretary) - phone 01639 765146.
28 Sep: Welcome to New Session
26 Oct: Charles Grover–Astronomer Jerry Grover
30 Nov: Binary Kuiper Objects Dr Ian Griffin
14 Deca History of Light Dr Allan Chapman

SCARBOROUGH & RYDALE AS (Note the change of name)
Meetings held on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Salford Observatory, Chasewater Field, Chasewater Road, Salford.
Contact: Tony Bennet 01843 831079
www.sekas.co.uk

SEKAS (SOUTH EAST KENT)
We are an active one, have excellent speakers, and are very sociable too !!! Instruments include a 20” Darkstar dobsonian, and ccd work is pursued by a good number, as well as halpna solar observation, traditional observations, public observation nights, etc. Contact: Tony Bennet 01843 831079

SILVER AS
Meetings held in Room 8, Oaklands Centre, Fairsile Rd, Lordshill, Southampton
Contact: Ken Medway. 02380-582204 ken@medway1875.freeerve.co.uk
www.delscope.demon.co.uk

SOLVENT AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS
Meetings in Room 8, Oaklands Centre, Fairsile Rd, Lordshill, Southampton
Contact Ken Medway. 02380-582204 ken@medway1875.freeerve.co.uk
www.delscope.demon.co.uk

STAFFORD & DISTRICT AS
Meetings held at Weston Road High School, Stafford. 19.15
Contact L. Hodgkinson, 01785 721065

STOUR AS
Meets monthly in the Jubilee Room of Cavendish Memorial Hall, Cavendish, Suffolk on the first Sunday of every month at 7.30 pm.
Contact K. Marshall, 01787 249534

STRATFORD UPON AVON AS
Meetings 7.30pm at the Home Guard Club, Tiddington, Nr Stratford upon Avon.
Contact: Mike Whitecross 01789 731784
www.avonastro.com

SUNDERLAND AS
www.sunderlandastro.com

SWANSEA AS
Meetings held at 7.30pm in lecture theatre C of the Science Block at the University of Wales Campus, Swansea

TIVERTON AS
Meetings are held Fridays at 7.30 p.m. at St Aubyn’s School, Blundells Road, Tiverton.
Contact: Neil Purves 01884 277425  ww.tivas.org.uk
9 Sep:  Astronomy on the Web Nick Markell
7 Oct:  Lunarik Astronomy Andrew Lound
4 Nov:  Geology of the Solar System Pt 2 Caroline Smith
2 Dec: The Amateurs are catching up Nick Hart

TULLAMORE AS
www.astrosoc.org.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM AS
We are a University society with the majority of our members being Undergraduate students, but we always welcome people along.
Contact Scott Potter,   email: scottstar@bham.ac.uk

VICTORIA AS (Ilkley)
Meetings held in Parish Hall, Town Lane, Newpont.
rosemarypears@aol.com  website: www.wightskies.fsnet.co.uk

WEST YORKSHIRE AS
Meets every Tuesday of month at 7.30pm at ‘Rosse Observatory’, Carlton Rd, Pontefract. Contact: Ken Willoughby 01977 795535.
www.wyas.fsnet.co.uk Email: ken.willoughby@brinternet.com
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WELDIN AS
Meets third Wednesday of month (exc Aug) at 7.30pm at Upland Community
College. Contact: Keith Woodcock. E-mail: wealden@hotmail.co.uk

WOLAS (West of London AS)
Secretary: Duncan J Radbourne. 9 Wellington Road ,Hatch End,Pinner,
Middlesex HA5 4NF. Email: duncan.radbourne@gmail.com
Website: www.wolas.org.uk

Wolverhampton AS
Meets alternate Mondays, at 7.30pm, between September and April, with
additional meetings in May and June, at Beckminster Methodist Church Hall,
Birches. Contact: Sydney Crump (tel 01299 871606),
email secretary@wolas.org.uk www.wolas.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

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.
However if the details of your society are incorrect, or indeed
if you aren’t included, please send details to the Editor.

FAS Publications
Discounts for quantity purchases, pricing details are available at:
http://www.fedastro.org.uk

Members Prices
Astrocalendar 2005 £2.00 + C5 SAE (34p stamps)
Observational Astronomy £2.20 + C5 SAE (34p stamps)
Using a Telescope £2.30 + C5 SAE (34p stamps)
Step by Step £1.60 + C5 SAE (28p stamps)
Astrophotography £1.00 + C5 SAE (44p stamps)
FAS Handbook 2001 (published 2001) £3.50 + C5 SAE (69p stamps)
FAS Handbook 2004/5 Queries are usually easier via email to the Publications Secretary:
publications@fedastro.org.uk

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Yorkshire Group: Paul Harper
45, Lydgate, Lepton, HUDDERSFIELD, West Yorkshire,
HD8 OLT Tel: 01484 606832

Are You New to Astronomy?
Then the BAA ‘Back to Basics’ Workshop is for YOU

The aim of this event, to help everyone who has recently become inter-
ested in astronomy, learn some of the basic techniques and develop the inter-
est to its full potential. During the day experienced people will be on hand to
help answer any questions.
We have a programme of talks and practical sessions plus three retailers
attending this event.

• Solar Observing – Lyn Smith
• Naked eye & Binocular observing of the Moon and Planets – Paul Money
• Simple Variable Star Observing – Karen Holland
• Touring the autumn constellations - Paul Money
• Deep Sky Observations using simple equipment – Dr Stewart Moore

The morning practical sessions will repeated in the afternoon and there
will be an evening observing session for anyone who is interested - Practical
demonstration of Telescopes, Eyepieces & Filters – Rother Valley Optics
Solar observations (weather permitting) - Lyn Smith & Doncaster AS.
Retailers attending are Rother Valley Optics, Aurora Books and York
Meteorites.
We are also hoping to have a display of Moon Rock from P.PARC and a
display by Sheffield University
This event is being held at The Regent Hotel, Regent Square, Doncaster,
South Yorkshire, England, DN1 2DS, Tel 01302 364 180
The cost of this event is £10.00 per head (including lunch and refreshments)
Bookings and remittance must be sent to:
The British Astronomical Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly,
London W1J 0DU
Email: office@britastro.org by 30th September 2005
Booking forms can be found on the BAA web site or can be obtained
from the BAA office.

Deadlines for submission for newsletter in 2005/6:
Winter 2005/6 - 9th December 2005
Spring 2006 - 14th April 2006
Please remember to send ALL items to the Editor, Frank Johns.
Regrettably material can only be returned if supplied with a SAE.