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FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

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

NO ROOM FOR SOCIETIES AT ASTROFEST!

When Sam George announced at an FAS Council meeting late last year that he had been informed that there would be no Societies' room at the 2007 European Astrofest, there was concern and mystification in probably equal measure.

Concern - because it is considered important that amateur astronomy has a chance to show itself at the premier astro-event of the year.

Mystification—because no clear reason was given for this move.

All was revealed at the show however, when it was seen that the room, usually reserved for the societies, had been earmarked for the publicity and book-signing by Patrick Moore, Chris Lintott and Brian May.

Presumably at the time we were informed arrangements were still very fluid.

We still await news as to whether the Societies Room will be re-instated for 2008—we will keep you informed.



Beccy Watson and John Durston of Callington CAG in august company—Chris Lintott, Patrick Moore and Brian May busy signing books

CCAG Goes to Astrofest

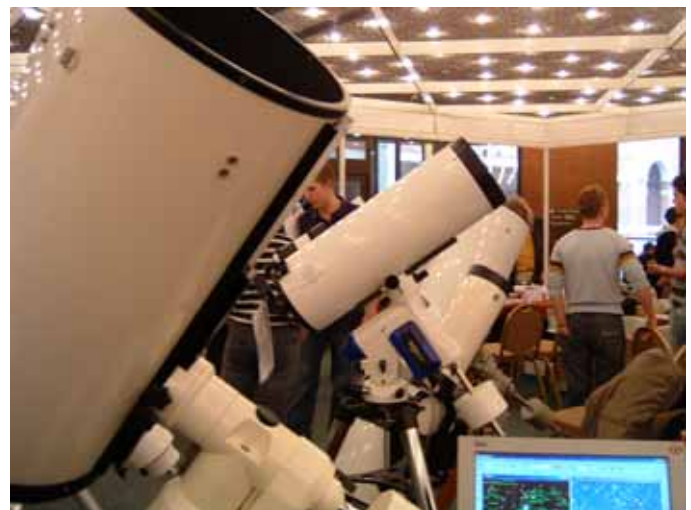
The day got off to an early start with the train leaving Plymouth station before 6am. The five members of the Callington Community Astronomy Group (CCAG) piled out of the train and into a taxi for the drive to Kensington Town Hall arriving just before 10am. Walking into the ground floor exhibition space was impressive the first thing that caught the eye was the imposing mass of the huge the Meade 20" RCX400 on one side, closely followed by a sea of white telescopes on the Orion Optics stand. The trade stands were spread over three floors with a large auditorium situated on the ground floor.

Having bought our lecture tickets a few months in advance was fortuitous because the morning lecture session had sold out.

The first lecture on 'Weather on the Planets' examined the atmosphere on Venus, Mars and Titan. This was an interesting look at the weather on our Solar System neighbours. The lecture on 'What makes a great comet' looked at comet structures and what makes a comet great, then examining whether Comet McNaught fitted that criteria. This lecture overran and was in my view the weakest of the morning session, the information could have been put across in a more succinct and interesting manner in half the time. Damian Peach gave an interesting lecture on obtaining high quality lunar images using webcams illustrated with some amazing images.

The final session of the morning was the presentation by the authors of 'BANG, The Complete History of The Universe'. The session started with a humorous look back at the past 50 years of the Sky

at Night television program, Brian May then presented a tribute to Sir Patrick Moore and his achievements. Chris Lintott, Patrick Moore and Brian May then explained the process and reason behind the book. This was followed by a Q&A in which many of the usual questions were fielded. This was the highlight of the morning session.



Just like a crowded sweet shop!

(Continued on page 3)

Presidents Log

The FAS Council met in March, with a packed agenda and much to get through. The Council meets only 3 times per year, and emails are used to transact much of the day-to-day business. However, there is nothing to beat a face-to-face meeting to discuss and settle issues that arise.

A major topic for discussion was the International Year of Astronomy 2009. Although it seems like a long way away, the organising committee in the UK have been active already, and a major theme of the Year will be to reach out to sections of society that might not be the traditional target audience. We are starting to get past the 'ideas' stage, but if you have ideas about ways in which Societies could contribute please send these to me as soon as you can. We hope to be able to coordinate activities with the other UK amateur astronomy organisation such as the SPA and BAA. In fact our role is key as only local societies are well placed to help provide resources (people and equipment) that would not otherwise be available.

As you may be aware we have also been thinking about the role of that Regional Groups play in the FAS. Our view is that Regional Groups need to form from the ground up, where societies come together for mutual benefit. Whilst some regional groups have waned in the past couple of years, it is good to hear that two groups are becoming re-vitalised; Keith Brack-

enborough and Steve Williams are now the FAS reps for SA-GAS and Chilterns and Thames Valley groups respectively, and have been active in talking with societies in their areas. We hope to have more about these Groups in a future edition of the Newsletter. But if you fall within one of these regions and have not been contacted by Keith or Steve, I am sure they would be pleased if you were to get in touch.

We also discussed this years Convention, which will be held at the BMI in Birmingham on the 13th of October. We are planning something slightly different this year. In addition to three great 'pro' speakers (Professors Mike Cruise, Colin Pillinger and Phil Diamond), we are planning to have a session with 'short talks' by local societies who have been successful in their operations, so that their experience and knowledge can be passed on. A sort of 'lessons learned'. I hope that you will be able to attend this year – it really is a great day out !

Astronomical Society of Glasgow to host BAA Out of London Weekend

Friday 31 August to Sunday 2 September.

This is a date for your Diary not to be missed - the event will be based in the Strathclyde University, Glasgow and will be hosted by the and is titled "Deep Sky and all that Matters"

The Weekend starts, on Friday evening, with a Civic Reception followed with a talk from Prof John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland and Dr David Clarke, former Director of the University of Glasgow Observatories. Saturday has a full programme of lectures on Deep sky, radio astronomy and cosmology. In the evening there is a chance to visit to the Glasgow University Observatory. The weekend ends with a visit to the Glasgow Science Centre on the Sunday morning where you will be able to enjoy looking round and enjoying a planetarium show.

Full details of the weekend, together with a booking form, will be sent to BAA members with the June issue of the BAA Journal. Others should contact Eric Tomney for details (baaweekend@myasg.info) or check the BAA or Astronomical Society of Glasgow websites for breaking news.

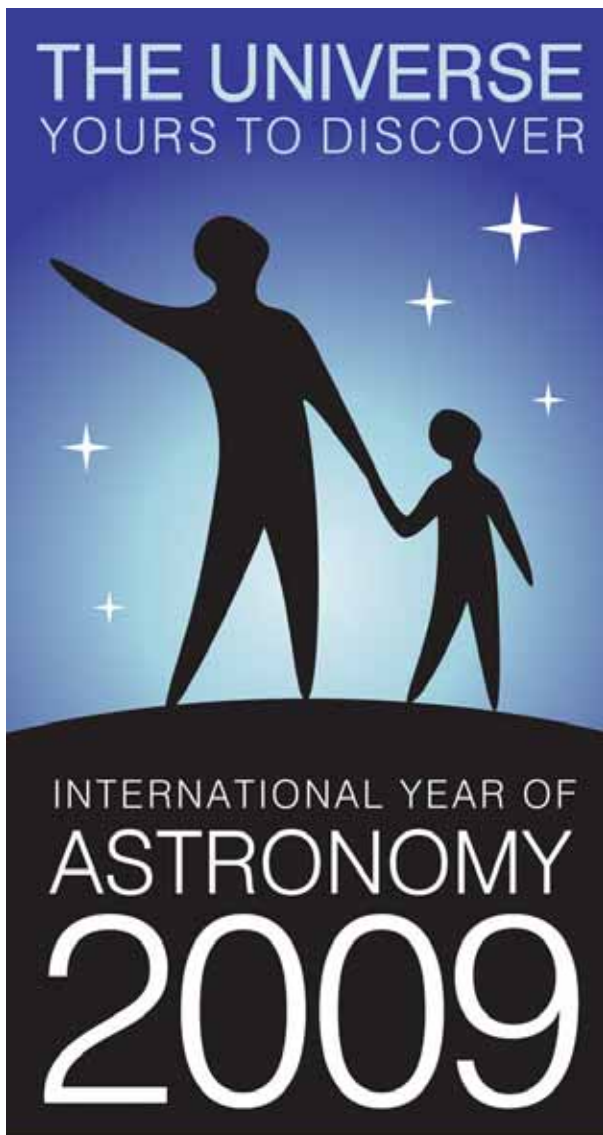
2007 FAS Convention to be held at Birmingham again

The 2007 Federation of Astronomical Societies Convention is to be held on Saturday October 13th. We are holding over event, for the second time, at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (BMI) in the centre of Birmingham. Since the FAS is a national organisation, we are hoping, like last year, that we will get a wide range of people along - spanning the whole country.

The speakers for the day currently include: Prof Mike Cruise (University of Birmingham), Prof Collin Pillinger (OU) and Prof Phil Diamond (University of Manchester). We are also intending to have along a selection of short talk by amateurs from FAS groups.

There will be greater space for traders/exhibitors this year and a super set of prizes are again being gathered for the raffle.

As last year advance tickets can be obtained from Callum Potter.



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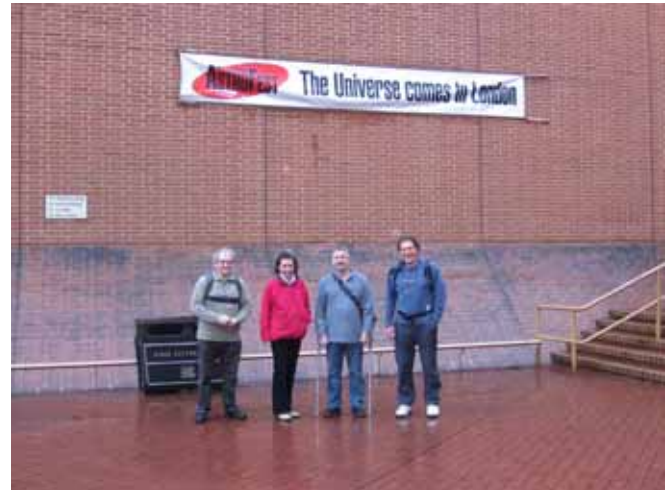
Filing out of the auditorium was not easy due to the sheer weight of people trying to leave and the numbers in the ground floor exhibition area. The fine weather enabled us to have lunch outside and to get some fresh air before battling the masses inside. Even after the afternoon lecture sessions had started the crowded halls prevented me from being able to get close enough to any of the stands to look at the assorted array of tantalising goodies. The few stands that I could get close to had masses of shiny goods to entice the money out of people's wallets. The big chip CCD cameras were very prominent on the Ian King Imaging and Starlight Express stands. The display of William Optics scopes on the Ian King stand tempted two Callington members to acquire Zenithstar 66 refractors. The Patriot edition of this scope was on display with its bright stars and stripes livery, with some of the cost being a donation to the American Red Cross. This will have an appeal on the American market but I don't imagine many being sold in the UK, even if they did a Union Flag version.

When buying a copy of Bang from the Canopus stand you were handed a ticket for a signing session in the afternoon. The queue for this stretched across the upper hall and down the stairs to the ground floor. Getting to the front of the queue took about 20 minutes, but it was worth it to get to meet the three authors.

After getting the book signed we realised that trying to get a good look at anything was going to be difficult and so those of us who didn't have tickets for the afternoon lecture session left for the Science Museum.

The first three of the afternoon lectures were attended by a few of our members. This first lecture of the afternoon session was delivered in a very enthusiastic manner and explained in depth Einstein's rings and how the relatively new technique of gravitational microlensing is used to detect distant galaxies and extrasolar planets. The second lecture entitled From Sputnik To e-MERLIN was a very interesting talk on the development, funding and construction of the Jodrell Bank radio telescopes. The talk ended with a description of recent improvements and the telescopes role within the e-MERLIN project. The Future Exploration of Mars was the third lecture and took us through the history and discoveries made by both NASA and ESA robotic missions to Mars illustrated by many stunning images shown to full effect on the massive screen in the hall.

The advantage of holding this event in London is the good transport links and large resident population guaranteeing a good crowd, but in my view the venue was too small for the number of people attending



The intrepid travellers from Callington

Will I go to Astrofest 2008? - if there are some lectures of interest then I would consider it, but to travel all the way across the width of the country for trade stands you can't get near, then the answer would be no. European Astrofest was an interesting and a frustrating experience where the candy store of astronomy treats were just out of reach.

John Durston
Callington Community Astronomy Group

LYRA takes Astronomy to the Schools

For the second time this year LYRA members were invited to a local school to talk to the children about astronomy. On Tue. 28 Nov., the "Rocket Men", i.e. Richard, Malcolm and Leonard, went to Roman Hill Middle School.

In the morning, there were two fifty-minute sessions with a group



of about 60 eleven-year-old children who participated in lively question and answer sessions. There was also a slide show and DVD presentation. The topics included the Sun, Moon, planets of the Solar System (including the recent demotion of Pluto), circular and elliptical orbits, comets, meteors, stars, constellations, clusters, nebulae and galaxies. One of the teachers, Mr. Thurgood, took an active part.

All was repeated in the early afternoon with a second group of about 30 children of the same age. Once again it was rewarding to have so much interest and enthusiasm shown by the children. It was suggested by the School that LYRA should come again next year, and that in January or February, it may be possible to organise a visit to the Society's Observatory.

Correction

Bev Ewart Smith from COAA contacted me to point out that there was an error in the report in Newsletter 83 of the visit by Brannel Astronomy to COAA. The half-metre 'scope at COAA is in fact polar aligned motorised fork-mounted (not Dobsonian as stated). As he said '*guiding a Dob would prove to be a real trial!!*'

Ed

REVIEWS

Red Shift 6 - Premium edition

The box the software arrived in was big, but it wasn't over packaged - opening the box revealed the DVD case and a 263 page manual. The art work does not make this product stand out when placed next to its rivals but the box does have a fold out cover with extra screen shots to give the buyer an idea of what to expect.

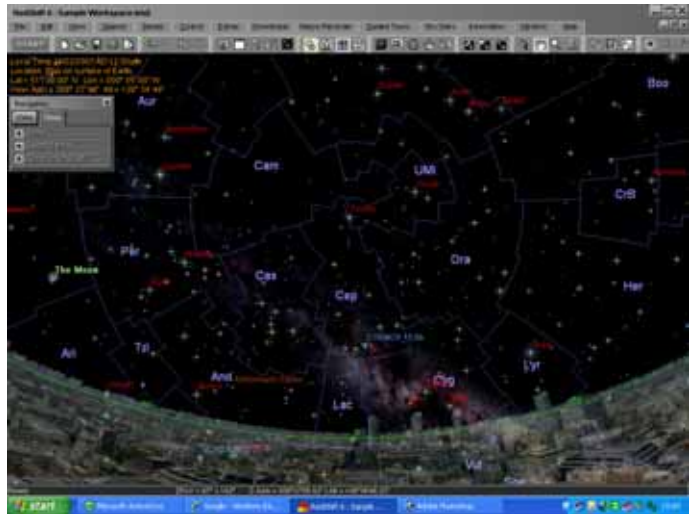
The manual, at first, appears dauntingly large but it's informative, well written and full of illustrations. Putting this volume in print makes it usable, how many of us read let alone print any or all of the pages on a PDF manual included on a disc.

Installation and registration was straight forward and I was soon ready to step into the virtual universe. The start up screen has a short animated introductory film which explains the capabilities of the software. This was well presented with clearly spoken narrative.

The Planetarium view, called the Sky Window, has a crisp feel to it and your view can easily be moved by using the Sky Drag tool to grab an area on the window and move it around using the mouse. To find information on an object select the pointer and click on the object. This will open a data sub window with all the normal information, A Rise/Set button on this data window opens a feature that I liked. The Rise/Set button opens a graph with a horizon then traced across the Sky is the path of that object. Clicking on the line brings up the altitude of that object for that time, thus making it easy to see when your target reaches its highest point in the sky when its at its best for observing. When set to show 1 day the graph is easy to understand but switch the time scale to a week or longer it becomes confusing.

The Sky Window can be set to have a plain horizon (or no horizon) but additional options provide a few different horizons from a tropical island to central London, there is also a sound scheme that can be set to annoy the user, whether you select the waves washing on a beach or the roar of a bonfire the question you have to ask is why include this, it doesn't add to the functionality of the program and it feels gimmicky.

The Sky Window can be printed as a star chart, with a header showing magnitudes, the print is black on a white background saving ink and making it easier to read with a red torch. It was also very easy to convert this chart a PDF file and save it for future use.



The FOV indicators project the standard Telrad and a circle onto the Sky Window. The Circle FOV can be set to a single user defined diameter. Unlike other programs I have used you can not put in the eyepiece size and telescope focal length, you will need a piece of paper

for the calculations. Red Shift also doesn't allow the user to define a library of different FOV's. There is also no option to show a square FOV indicator that can be set to represent a CCD or webcam

Another feature I liked about this program was the ability to look at the Milky Way in different wavelengths. The user can move a slider across the spectrum from Gamma Rays through optical and into radio frequency. A number of videos are included on the disc and accessible via the program. A sample of these revealed they were high quality sub-frame movies lasting between fifteen seconds and about two

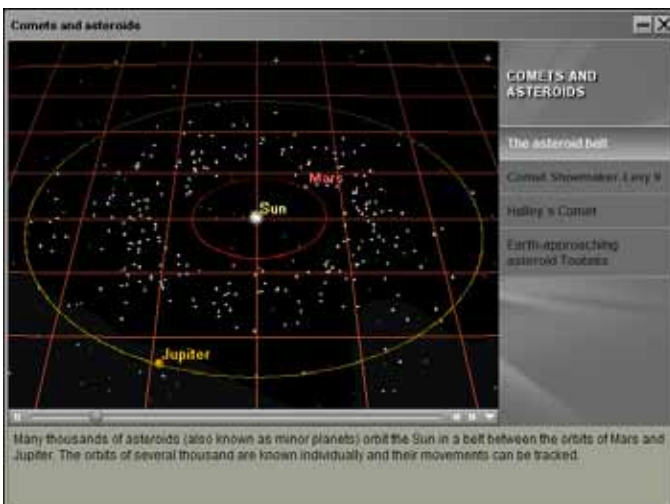
and a half minutes. Some of the films had commentary but the majority didn't.

The lectures are a series of short sub-frame animations joined together and accompanied by text boxes, these could be improved if the text was also narrated. My machine is quite fast and the delay for each movie to load was minimal, on a slower machine it might become very noticeable. The guided tours are better than the lecture because they are full screen and have narration as well as the text. The Guided tour of Saturn and its moon was four and a half minutes long with the planet and the moons rendered with good quality (almost photo real) surface texture. Some of the guided tours on constellations are short and lacking in detail, the 24 second long tour of the Pleiades contained very little information.

The 3D flight option allows the user to fly to a number of points in the galaxy, this sounds good but it looks like the old Windows star field screen saver with coloured stars and diffractions spikes flying towards the user lasting for a few seconds before your arrival.

Also on the disc is a photo gallery with some lovely, good quality images, even though there is a copy function I wasn't able to copy and paste the image into other software, such as PowerPoint. One other function that I found that didn't work well was the 'export as an im-

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THE TRANSIT OF VENUS

The Brief, Brilliant Life of Jeremiah Horrocks -
Father of British Astronomy.

by Peter Aughton

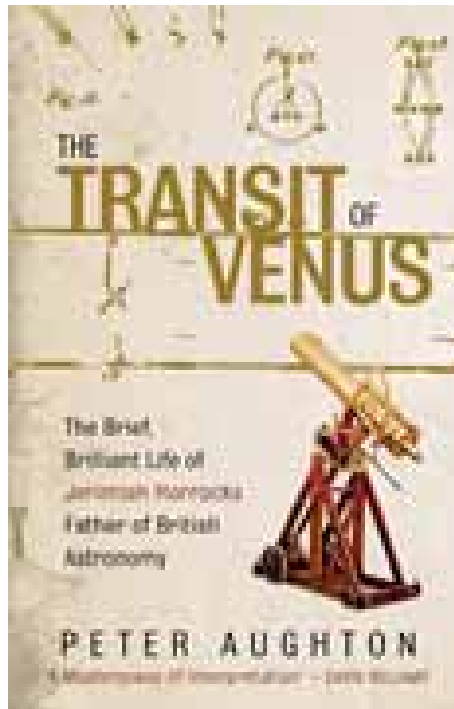
(A Phoenix paperback book - £8.99)

I have to confess, I had never heard of Jeremiah Horrocks until 2004, when the transit of Venus of June the 8th began to grab the headlines; and magazines and television programmes featured the story of how a young British astronomer, became the first man to correctly calculate the timing of the transit, observe with a telescope and record in detail this relatively rare astronomical event.

This book proved to be a very interesting account of life in the early 1600s, painting mental images of England before the Civil War, of the Puritans and of a time before the Pilgrim Fathers set sail. A farm labourer's wage was a few shillings a week and great cities such as Liverpool had populations of just a few thousand.

Piecing together the life history of Jeremiah Horrocks was not an easy task, as much evidence had been lost or destroyed. But the author uses strong evidence or challenges other biographies to either support or disprove previously published accounts of the short life of a very clever young man, who lived at a time when astronomical theories were being developed.

The author's own words best describes the man and the feeling I was left with after reading the book... "Jeremiah Horrocks had tackled and solved the most difficult of astronomical problems of the age.



He was a rare breed of astronomer, not only skilled at observational astronomy, but also in theoretical and philosophical work. He knew the positions and the motions of the planets more accurately than any other astronomer of his time. He was the first man to see the image of Venus on the face of the Sun. He was the first man to formulate a valid theory for the wandering of the Moon. He was the first man to appreciate the true scale of the solar system. Yet he was not an elderly, grey-bearded sage. He was a young man full of youth and vitality and he had barely come of age."

Jeremiah Horrocks was the first British astronomer to make an impact. He was not afraid to challenge and often, heavily criticize established theories and even the great men who made them. His work was achieved using the 'primitive' instruments of the time but it laid the foundations

for others great astronomers who followed him.

I recommend this book for its genealogy, history and thoroughly entertaining read.

Keith Lane

A New Range of Beginner's Booklets

The FAS is working on a range of booklets intended to assist and guide newcomers of all ages into Astronomy.

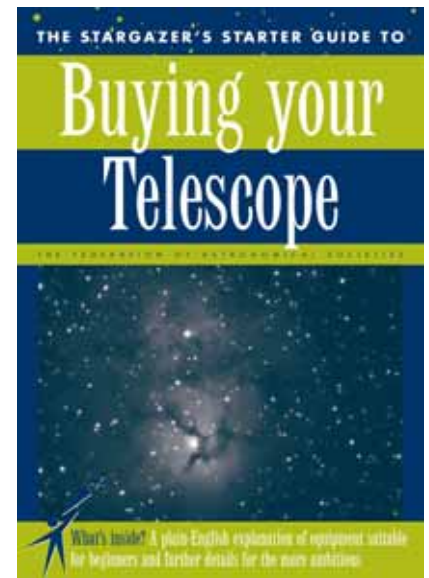
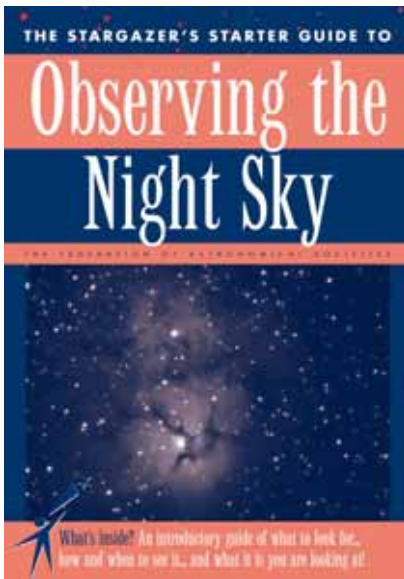
The first two titles will cover general observing the night sky and buying a telescope with others to follow covering such subjects as imaging with a webcam and general astrophotography.

These booklets will be in A5 portrait format and have up to 16 pages or so.

It is intended to keep the costs and therefore the selling price low. These will be available at a discount to Societies to sell at a modest profit to their members.

The booklet cover design, and they will all follow the same theme, was prepared by the Lindsey Johns, the Editor's daughter, a freelance graphic designer. Lindsey undertook this work at no cost to the FAS. (but at some cost to the Editor—more DIY at her place!!!)

It is hoped the first title will be available at the FAS 2007 Convention.



(Continued from page 4)

age'. With a night sky scene displayed I tried to export the screen as an image, when the function is selected nothing happens, no 'Save As' box or options box, searching the hard drive I could not find any files. On Red Shift 5 the program would save the image in a location selected by the user as a JPEG but with out file extension, Red Shift 6 doesn't appear to save the file. No information could be found in the manual or the searchable help on the disk. Checking the Red Shift web-site there were no patches for this program.

The addition of the telescope control is for the 'GO-TO' generation but I think the owners of the larger CCD equipped computerised telescopes will have their favoured software, which will be better suited to their needs.

Red Shift 6 is an advance on version 5 with an improved feel and look of the screen. Scrolling around the Sky Window is smooth and

once used to the controls, which doesn't take long, the software is easy to use. Red Shift 6 has some nice features as well as a few gimmicky ones. Having used every version of Red Shift from Version 3 onwards I find this software is well suited to those with a causal interest in Astronomy, beginners and those want easy to use good looking virtual universe on their desktop. For someone looking to buy their first piece of Planetarium software this would be a very good choice.

John Durston

Addendum

As John didn't have the facility to check the telescope control functions of Redshift 6, I tried it out on my set-up which is based on a Losmandy G11. Redshift talked to the mount via a POTH connection and GOTO and general mount control seemed quite effective.

Frank Johns

SOCIETY ROUND UP

ABINGDON AS

Meets at the Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon, at 8.00pm.
For more details telephone Bob Dryden 01491 201620 or visit our website
www.abingdonastro.org.uk

ALTRINCHAM & DISTRICT AS

Meets at 8.00pm on the first Friday of the month (except July & August) upstairs in the Scout's Building on Park Road, Timperley, Altrincham (OS Ref: SJ788891)
For more details telephone Kevin Thurston 0161 456 1833 or visit our website
www.astroadas.org.uk

AS OF GLASGOW

Meetings 3rd Thurs. at Room 345, Uni of Strathclyde (Montrose St entrance)

AS OF HARINGEY

Meetings generally 3rd Thursday at Ashmole School, Southgate, London N14, at 7.30 pm www.ashaastro.org.uk.

ANDOVER AS

Meetings 19:30 third Thursday of the month except August in Grateley Village Hall.
Secretary: Charles Roach e-mail: cjroach@worldonline.co.uk
www.andoverastronomy.org.uk

AYLESBURY AS

Meetings take place at the Scout Hut, Oakfield Road, Aylesbury.
Contact Simon Foster on 01844 216108 www.aylesbury-astronomy.org.uk

AYRSHIRE AS

Meetings 3rd Mon of month at Ayr Academy, Fort St, Ayr
John Walker email: gm0dig@hotmail.com

BASINGSTOKE AS

Contact: Andria Harbinson email: andria.harbinson@ntlworld.com
Website: <http://www.basingstokeas.org.uk/>

BATLEY & SPENDBOROUGH AS

Contact: I Newsome 01924-443860 email: bevia11@hotmail.com

BEDFORD AS

Meets last Wednesday at 19:30, Bedford School, Burnaby Road, Bedford, MK40 2TU Contact: 01234 211532 society@bedsastro.org.uk
www.bedsastro.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM AS

Club night on Wednesday Evenings, 7.30pm, at Aston Uni. (Library, ATM, work-shop, etc). Last Tuesday of month—lecture at 7.30pm, Room 146 Aston Uni.
www.birmingham-astronomy.co.uk

22 May: Centre of Galaxy—Balck Holes, etc

Prof Mike Merrifield

26 June: TBA

25 Sep: Proving Einstein right

Ian Morrison

30 Oct: French Guiana: Scoundrels, Spaceflight, etc

Michael Gill

27 Nov: TBA

Dr David Rothey

BOLTON AS

Bolton TIC Centre on Minerva Road (near Bolton Royal Hospital), from 7.30pm to 9pm. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday.

www.boltonastro.org.uk Secretary: Peter Miskiw.

BRADFORD AS

Meetings usually held on alternate Mondays in the upstairs room at Eccleshill Library, Bolton Road, Bradford, BD2 4SR at 7.30pm until 9.45pm. Observing on clear Thursdays at Rawdon Model Boat Club.

www.bradfordastronomy.co.uk or ring Hilary on 01274 6725710.

tony@tony-west.freemove.co.uk

For information about weekly night-time observing ring Andy on 07736 747252, Tony on 07813 240601 or John on 01274 419142.

21 May: Venus Unveiled

Mike Lancaster

4 Jun: Bridestones Legacy

Kevin Milburn

BRANNEL ASTRONOMY

Meetings on first and third Fridays of each month at Brannel School, St Stephens, Cornwall.

www.brannelastronomy.com

Contact: Frank Johns, 01637-878020 e-mail: frank@laplage.demon.co.uk

BRECKLAND AA

Open Meetings are on the second Friday of each month at Great Ellingham Recreation Centre near Attleborough, Norfolk at 7.30 PM.

Meetings are followed by a tour and observing (weather permitting) at our adjacent observatory.

Further details and a full contact list are available on our website at www.breckastro.supanet.com

Contact: Rod Crockford. rod_crockford@yahoo.co.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE AS

Four meetings per year at Patcham Village Hall, Brighton, BN1 8XR
Contact J. Luvian-Wade tel. 01273 889112 john_wade@ntlworld.com
www.bhas.fsnet.co.uk/

BRIGDEN AS

Meets 2nd Friday of month (Sept-May) at Parc Slip Nature Reserve, Aberkenfig.
www.cobwebs.uk.net/clivedown

BRISTOL AS

Meetings held on Friday evenings at 7.15pm at Bristol Grammar School,
Contact: Tricia Brown (secretary), tel. 0117 968 5023

www.bristolastrosoc.org.uk

CALLINGTON COMMUNITY ASTRONOMY GROUP

Meetings: First and third Saturdays (except August), at Callington Space Centre, Callington Community College, Launceston Road.

Becy Watson; callintonastro@kimwatson99.fsnet.co.uk

www.callington-astro.org.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.

David Powell (secretary), 029 2055 1704. Email CAS@ilddat.demon.co.uk

www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org

CAROLIAN AS

Contact: Chris Ashman 01562 743758. Email: carolianastro@btinternet.com

CASTLE POINT AC

Meets most Wednesdays at St Michaels Church, St Michaels Rd, Daws Heath, Hadleigh.

Contact: 01702 434449. Email: secretary@cpac.org.uk

www.cpac.org.uk

CLEETHORPES AS

Meetings held at the Beacon Hill Observatory, Cleethorpes, start at 7.30pm.

Contact Paul Thompson 01472 233552 or e-mail

paul@cleethorpesastronomy.co.uk. www.cleethorpesastronomy.co.uk

CLEVELAND & DARLINGTON AS

Most monthly meetings held at Grindon Parish Hall.

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

CLYDESDALE AS

Meetings held 2nd Monday of month near Lanark

Contact: Lyn Smith 07725 347711. e-mail: clydesdaleastro@hotmail.co.uk

www.clydesdaleastro.org.uk

CORNWALL AS

Meets second and fourth Thursday of every month at The Godolphin Club, Wendron St., Helston. Contact: Robert Beeman (01326-341164)

Email: robert.beeman@btinternet.com or 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

COVENTRY & WARWICK AS

Contact S Payne 02476-474227

www.cawas.freemove.co.uk

CRANBROOK & DISTRICT AS

Contact M Hannan secretary@epublish.co.uk

www.cadsas.epublish.co.uk

CRAWLEY AS

Meets third Friday of every month (exc July & Aug) at Ifield Community Centre. 7.30 pm. (December dates can be variable)

Contact: Jim Swift 01293-882560 or 07973-142779 (mobile)

E-mail: cytron@btinternet.com and/or jimswift@btinternet.com

CREWKERNE & DISTRICT AS (CADAS)

Have outline planning permission to build an observatory, meeting room and work room in a dark sky site close to Crewkerne.

Anne Dodgson Crewastra@aol.com

DUMFRIES AS

Monthly meetings at the St. George's Churchhall, George Street, Dumfries

7 to 9.30 pm. September to May. For dates/details contact the Secretary Klaus

Schiller at lesley.burrell@btinternet.com or 01387 269762

Society web-site www.astronomers.ukscientist.com

EASTBOURNE AS

Meetings on Saturdays at the Willingdon Memorial Hall, Church Street,

Willingdon starting at 7.30 p.m. Contact Peter Gill, tel. 01323 646853, email

pbj.gill@btinternet.com. www.EastbourneAS.org.uk

EAST RIDING ASTRONOMERS

Contact Tony Scaife, email astrogen@astrogen.karoo.co.uk

EWELL AS

Meets 2nd Friday each month at Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam.

Secretary; Richard Gledhill, tel. 0208-393-1068

FARNHAM AS

Meet 2nd Thursday at The United Reform Church, South Street, Farnham

Secretary; Barry Bellinger, tel. 07748766610 barry.bellinger@nokia.com

www.farnham-as.co.uk

FLAMSTEED AS

Meets 1st Monday each month at Royal Observatory & National Maritime Museum,

Greenwich. Contact: Friends Office. tel. 020 8312 6678 - jjbendall@btinternet.com

As well as a full programme of lectures and visits members assist astronomers at the Royal Observatory with many and various projects.

GUERNSEY AS

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

Contact: Jessica Harris. 01481 247193

GUILDFORD AS

Meet at the Guildford Institute, Ward Street, Guildford on the 1st Thursday of every month (bar August). www.guilfordas.org

Contact: John Axtell. 01932 341036 johnaxtell42@aol.com

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB AS

Meets at 7.30 pm Room 3 (the Oriel Room) Free Church Hall, Northway, London NW11. Entrance via the door on the left side of the building.

Contact: Dianne Fishman 020 8458 4038 hgsas@dfish.demon.co.uk

HARROGATE AS

Meetings last Friday of the month. Harlow Community Centre, Harlow Ave.

Contact: Lyn Smith 01937 531171 lynsmithbridgehouse@hotmail.com

HASTINGS & BATTLE AS

Meets second Saturday at Red Cross Hall, St Leonards on Sea.

Contact: Keith Herbert kh@ibismedical.co.uk

HAVERING AS

Meetings 3rd Wednesday of the month. Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens, Upminster. Contact: Frances Ridgley 01708 227397 www.ccdland.com (follow link for Havering AS)

HEBDEN BRIDGE AS

Meetings at Hope Baptist Church Rooms at approx 4 week intervals.

Contact: Len Entwhistle (01422-378368) or visit FAS Diary on FAS webpage.

HERSCHEL AS

Secretary. Peter Snell, 128 Langley Road, Slough. SL3 7TF (01753 675634)

Email: hasadmin@gmail.com

HIGHLANDS AS

Meetings 1st Tuesday of the month at The Green House, Beechwood Business Park North, Inverness. Contact: Dr Pat Williams, Inverness Tel: 01463 793464 pat.williams@ndirect.co.uk

HORSHAM AS

Meetings 1st Wednesday of the month (exc Aug) at Christ's Hospital.

Contact: Corrine Loudon. Email: hoag.secretary@hotmail.co.uk

HULL & EAST RIDING AS

Meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 from Sept to May. Room S25, Wilberforce Building, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RX

Contact: Sharon Long, President. E-mail: charon@charon.karoo.co.uk

HUDDERSFIELD ASTRO. & PHIL. SOCIETY

Meetings at Observatory and at 4A Railway Street.

Contact: Paul Harper 01484-606832 www.huddersfielddastryonomy.org.uk

ILKESTON & DISTRICT AS

Meets on second Tuesdays at Hayloft Erewash Museum, Ilkeston, Derbyshire and start at 7.45p.m.

Contact Mary McMulty, tel. 01298 78234 email: mintaca@msn.com

Also meets last Wednesdays at The Green Room, Shipley Park Visitor Centre, Heanor, Derbyshire at 7.45 pm

IRISH AA

Meets alternate Wednesdays at 7.30pm at the Teachers Training College, Stranmillis, Belfast.

Contact: Johns Hall e-mail: jimmyaquarius@btinternet.com

JERSEY AC

Meets 2nd Monday of the month, 8.00pm at Sir Patrick Moore Astronomy Centre, Les Creux Country park, St Breleade.

Contact: Eileen Besnard. 01534-860802 e-mail: hakmat@jerseymail.co.uk

KNOWLE AS

Meets 1st Mondays (exc Aug & BHs) at Dorridge Methodist Church Centre, Mill Lane, Dorridge, Solihull.

Contact: Nigel Foster. e-mail: nftest00@hotmail.com www.knowleastro.org.uk

LEEDS AS

Centenary House, North Street, Leeds between 7.00 pm and 9.30 pm

Mailto: xavier@leedsastronomy.org.uk or xvermeren@gmail.com

LEICESTER AS

Meets 2nd and 4th Tues 19:30. National Space Centre, Exploration Drive, Leicester LE4 5NS

Contact: Chris Gutteridge 0116 270 0596 chris@gutteridge.co.uk

www.leicester-astronomical.co.uk

LETCWORTH & DISTRICT AS

Meets last Wednesday of the month at Plinston Hall, Letchworth: 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 email: clarklunar@aol.com

LLANDRILLO COLLEGE & COASTAL AS

Meets second Tuesday of the month at Llanellian Community Centre, Colwyn Bay

Contact: Jean Smith, 16 Byron St, Trelawnyd, Flintshire. LL18 6DP

e-mail: jsmith2859@aol.com

LONDON HEATHROW TELESCOPE CLUB

Secretary: Dunstan Fronteras

email: londonheathrowtelescopeclub@yahoo.co.uk

www.freewebs.com/londonheathrowtelescopeclub/index.htm

LOUGHTON AS

Meet every Thursday at 8.00 pm. in the Scout Hall, Loughton Lane, Theydon Bois, Essex. Contact Jerry Workman (0208-507-7568) las-astro.org.uk

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

May 10: Catch a Falling Star

14 Jun: Seeing Is Believing

Kevin Wright

Kevin Wright

LUTON AS

Meets last Thurs in month at University of Luton. LU2 8LE

Contact: David Early daval@kbnet.co.uk www.lutonastrosoc.org.uk/

MANCHESTER AS

Meets third Thurs in month from early autumn to late spring at Renold Building, University of Manchester, Sackville Street at 19.30hrs. Meets all other Thurs evenings at Godlee Observatory, Floor G, Sackville Building, U of M.

Contact: Kevin Kilburn massecretary@manastro.co.uk

www.manastro.co.uk/

MARCHES A G

Meets 2nd Fri in month at Spaceguard Centre, Knighton, Powys. LD7 1LW.

Contact: Michael Birch 01597 850010 zakdorn@hotmail.com

www.spaceguarduk.com/mag

MARR AS

Meets: Last Tuesday of the month at 1930, Learney Arms Hotel, Torphins. Observational meetings as weather permits

Contact David Pattullo, wolfscot@diastart.net

www.freewebs.com/marrastro

MELTON & DISTRICT AS

Meets: Monthly at Village Hall, School Lane, South Croxton, Leics.

Observational meetings as weather permits

Contact: Andrew Atterbury - andy@att143.freeserve.co.uk 01664 812673

29 Sep: t.b.a.

Dr Ann Bonell

MID KENT AS

Meetings of the society are held first and last Fridays of the 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/>

12 & 26 Jan: Constellation of the Month Peter Parish

MILTON KEYNES AS

Meetings are held at Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes on alternate Fridays, starting at 8.00 pm.

Contact: Mike Leggett Tel: 01908 503692

Email: mike-pat-leggett@shenley9.fsnet.co.uk www.mkas.org.uk

11 May: Observing the Lunar 100

Dr Lillian Hobbs

8 Jun: Gadgets and Things

Pete New

26 Oct: The Sun-A Biography

Dr David Whitehouse

23 Nov: Mars Rover

Jerry Workman

MORAY AC, SIGMA

Meetings 1st Friday of every month starting at 7.30PM at Birnie Village Hall, Thomshill, Elgin, Moray. Observing Evenings every Friday and Saturday from mid Sep to May at our bothy on Easterton Airfield, Birnie, Elgin. For details contact Ian

Brantingham on 01466 771371 or ian@branters.freeserve.co.uk Sigma website:

<http://www.sigma-astro.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

NORTH ESSEX AS

Public meeting at 7:30pm on the third Thursday of every month (excl. Aug & Dec) at the Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End, Witham.

Contact Neil Short e-mail: njs.int@btinternet.com

<http://www.neas.me.uk>

NORTH NORFOLK AS

Meetings held in East Barsham Village Hall. For more information contact John

Prockter, Gen Sec., Fairfields, Walsingham Road, Binham, Norfolk. NR21 0BU

Email: japrocker@aol.com <http://www.nnas.org>

NORTHAMPTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings held on Monday at 19.30 in The Humfrey Rooms, 10 Castilian Terrace, Northampton.

Contact Cyril Sampson at The Humfrey Rooms. www.hamal.demon.co.uk

NORTHANTS AA

Meetings held on 1st Tues at 19.45 at Church House, St Bodolphs Rd, Barton, Seagrave, Kettering and on 3rd Tues at Newton Field Centre nr Geddington.

Contact: Steve Williams 01933 650331. www.naastronomy.com

1 May: Exploring mars and other planets

Helen Walker

NOTTINGHAM AS

Meetings held on 1st Thurs at 19.30 at British Geological Survey, Nicker Hill, Keyworth, Notts. NG12 5GG.

Contact: Paul Stocks. email: nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk

<http://beehive.thisisnottingham.co.uk/nottinghamastro>

OFFA'S DYKE AS

Contact: Graham Arnold 01547 530205

ORWELL AS

email ipswich@ast.cam.ac.uk www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~ipswich

Roy Gooding (Secretary) 01473-462977

16 Nov: t.b.a

Dr David Whitehouse

PAPHOS AS (CYPRUS)

Meetings 2nd Wednesdays of the month at Tsada Golf Course, Paphos, with 2 overnight stays during the year and some dark site observing.

Tel: 00357 26 936041 e-mail: dbrown@logos.cy.net

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PAPWORTH ASTRONOMY CLUB

Meets at Upper Pendrill Court, Papworth Everard, nr Huntingdon on the first Wednesday of every month at 19.30. Contact Keith Tritton - phone 01767 677219, email kpt2@tutor.open.ac.uk

PETERBOROUGH AS

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month at 7.30pm at St Kyneburgha's Cedar Centre, Castor, Peterborough.

Contact: Gerry Holland (secretary) - phone 01733 772236

Email: gerry@comrep.freereserve.co.uk www.pas-stargazer.co.uk

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.

ST NEOTS AS

Contact: Davi Roberts - 01480-212960. email: davidr.astro@btinternet.com

SALFORD AS

Sept to April: Weekly Wednesdays meetings are held. May to August: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays only. Meetings 7.30pm at Room 115–Level 1, University of Salford, Maxwell Building, The Crescent.

Contact: Kath Radford - phone 0161 794 3179.

email: mail@howarddazeley@demon.co.uk

SCARBOROUGH & RYDALE AS (Note the change of name)

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

Contact 01723 500389 email: sdas@scarborough-as.org.uk

www.scarborough-as.org.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 h-alpha solar observation. Contact: Tony Bennet 01843-831079 Secretary@sekas.co.uk www.sekas.co.uk

SHETLAND AS

Meet monthly, South Mainland, Shetland

Contact: Peter Kelly Tel: 01957 733242 theglebe@zetnet.co.uk

SHANNONSIDE AC

Meet 1st Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm, Room 206, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

Contact: Tony O'Hanlon. 00353-65-6892221

www.shannonsideastronomy.com

SHROPSHIRE AS

Speaker meetings are generally held on the first Friday of the month at Gateway 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

SOLENT AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Meetings 3rd Tuesday 19:30-22:00. Room 8, Oaklands Centre, Fairisle Road, Lordshill, Southampton

Contact: Ken Medway. 02380-582204 ken@medway1875.freereserve.co.uk

www.delscope.demon.co.uk

SOUTHAMPTON AS

Meetings are held at Edmund Kell Unitarian Church Hall, Bellevue Road at 7:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Dr Lilian Hobbs - Secretary 023 8026 3319

Secretary@southampton-astronomical-society.org.uk

10 May; Bang—The Complete History of the Universe

Chris Lintott

14 Jun; Things that go Bang in the Night

Ron Arbour

12 Jul; Introduction to CCD Imaging and Image Processing

Nick Szymanek

SOUTH Lincs A & G S

Meetings every third Friday (exc July/Aug) 19.30hrs at St Mary's Church Hall, Pinchbeck, Spalding. Monthly observing at private observatory.

Contact: Martin Anderson 01406-380003— 47 Woodgate Road Moulton Chapel, Spalding www.solags.co.uk

SOUTH WEST HERTS AS

Contact: Brian Bloomfield 01923-283905 www.swhas.org.uk

STAFFORD & DISTRICT AS

Meetings held at Weston Road High School, Stafford. 19.15

Contact L Hodkinson, 01785 712065

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

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

SUNDERLAND AS

Meets 2nd & 3rd Sunday at 19.00hrs

Contact: Graham Darke 0191 415 2625 darke@bun.com

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

TAVISTOCK AS

Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. at The Physics Laboratory, Kelly College. Contact:

Contact: jewels on 07877-448117

2 May: History of ESA Southern Observatory

John Durston

THURROCK AS

Meetings are held first Wednesdays (except August) at 7.30 p.m. at The Methodist Hall, High Street, Horndon-on-the-Hill, Essex SS17 8LN

Contact: Roy Hookway Tele:01375 676602

email: roy.hookway1@btinternet.com web: www.thurrockastronomy.com

TIVERTON AS

Meetings are held Fridays at 7.30 p.m. at St Aubyn's School, Blundells Road, Tiverton. Contact: Neil Purves 01884-277425 www.tivas.org.uk

TORBAY AS

Meetings held at 7.30pm 3rd Thursday in the month September to April normally at Town Hall Torquay. Further information from Dennis Humphreys on 01626 367280 or on www.torbayastro.org

TULLAMORE AS

http://www.iol.ie/~seanmck/tas.htm

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM AS

We are a University society but all are welcome.

Contact Kym Moss, email: kkg494@googlemail.com www.astrosoc.org.uk

USK AS

Contact: jbrince9@yahoo.co.uk www.uskastronomicalsociety.org.uk

VECTIS AS (Isle of Wight)

Meetings held in Parish Hall, Town Lane, Newport.

rosemarypears@aol.com www.wightskies.fsnet.co.uk

WADHURST AS

Meetings held on third Wednesday of month at the Methodist Church Upper Room, High Street, Wadhurst.

Contact: G G Rathbone, 13 Brookfield, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN15 6SQ

WALSALL AS

Meetings held every Thursday of month 20.30hrs at the Rushall Olympic Football Club, Dales Lane (off Bosty Lane), Walsall.

Contact: Alan Ledbury 01922 632624 email: g.ledbury@blueyonder.co.uk

www.walsallastro.co.uk

WEST CORNWALL AS

Meets first Wednesday of month at St Michaels Hotel, Falmouth, and

Third Thursday at the CPR Learning Centre, Camborne

Contact: Robin Wadding email: robinwadding@westcornwallastro.org

Website: www.westcornwallastro.org

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@btinternet.com

WILTSHIRE AS

Contact: Andrew Burns Email: anglesburns@hotmail.com

WEALDEN AS

Meets third Wednesday of month (exc Aug) at 7.30pm at Upland Community

College. Contact: Keith Woodcock. Email: wealdenas@hotmail.co.uk

WHITE PEAK ASTRO OBS GROUP

Meets Hopton Cottage, Hopton, Top Hopton, Derbyshire, DE4 4DF

Contact: Robin Spencer. Email: thespencers@care4free.net

www.wpaog.co.uk/

WOLAS (West of London AS)

Secretary: Duncan J Radbourne. 49 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

WORTHING AS

Contact: Graham Boots meeting_secretary@was.org.uk 01903 505346

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 Martin Whillock on 01347 821849 email: martin@whillock.me.uk www.yorkastro.co.uk

Deadlines for submission for the next newsletter:
Summer/Autumn 2007 - 10th August 2007
Winter 2006/7—23 November 2007

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

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.