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FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

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

The Revival of SAGAS - A new beginning !

In the 1960s a number of new societies were formed in the South of England. There was no co-operation between them and some found it difficult to go it alone. What was the best way to arrange a meeting? How can we get speakers? What are our legal responsibilities?

All these and many more were frequently asked questions.

There was a need for societies to share common problems, help each other, share ideas. There was no Federation at this time. It was considered that if the officials could meet it could benefit the development of individual societies.

The first meeting of what became the Southern Area Group of Astronomical Societies (SAGAS) actually took place on 15th September 1973, and was chaired by the Brighton Society. The concept was almost an instant success. By 1976 there were 16 societies in SAGAS. That being said there was no formal 'membership' as such - no subscriptions, no constitution.

Officers and members of individual societies could attend any meetings they wished. Also, in 1976 a central distribution of information was established - societies decided at a meeting on 10th July 1976 to form a central clearing house for informa-

tion. A monthly newsletter was also established and each society sent copies of their magazines to the others. An inter-society quiz was started and social events between societies and after the SAGAS meetings were popular.

This was, perhaps, the time that the original SAGAS was



most active. An open meeting, at which members from all societies are invited and chaired by one of the societies took place every year with a number of speakers. This has now been going for over 30 years!

For much of the time communication to SAGAS societies has been by the publication 'Nightlife'. This was produced by Peter Seiden who was Chairman of the now defunct Ports-

mouth Society. Pete had been very energetic in supporting SAGAS in the past and for this his efforts were much appreciated. Indeed, without Pete's involvement over many years it is difficult to know if SAGAS would have survived.

Finally, in 2005, Peter decided to give 'Nightlife' a break - on the 9th July 2005 a 'Nightlife event' occurred - a major astronomical convention took place in Portsmouth. It was a great success and many SAGAS societies attended but no further 'Nightlife's' were produced - the lifeline of communication that had been SAGAS was broken.

The number of societies attending SAGAS events dropped. After the meeting of 18th February 2006 the open meeting took place in June 2006 and was hosted by Croydon to



Members of the SAGAS group relaxing after a strenuous meeting!!

FAS Convention 2007

Saturday 13 October 2007 at Birmingham & Midland Institute

- 8.30 Doors open for traders
 - 9.00 Doors open to public
 - 9.50 Introductory remarks from FAS Pres, Callum Potter
 - 10.00 Professor Mike Cruise, University of Birmingham-title tba
 - 11.00 Samuel George: The International Year of Astronomy- What's Happening?
 - 11.20 Jerry Stone: How to book and run a public star party
 - 11.40 Discussion: Sources of funds for astro socs
 - 12.00 Lunch
 - over lunch
 - * FAS Imaging Competition Display in the lecture theatre
 - * Robert Ball Library Tours
 - 1:45pm FAS AGM
 - 2:30pm Professor Phil Diamond: 'Jodrell Bank: at the heart of the past and the future of radio astronomy'.
 - 3:30 Tea and coffee Break
 - 4.00 Imaging Competition Result, Raffle, Eric Zucker Award
 - 4:15 Professor Colin Pillinger- title tba
 - 5:15 FAS Pres: closing remarks
- Exhibitors (at the time of going to press)**
SHA, Birmingham AS, Birmingham University AS
Open University, SCS Astro, Altair Astro, Aurora Books
Sky's the Limit, SPA, Practical Astronomer
Martin Peston - 'A User's Guide to the Meade LXD 55 and 75 telescopes'
Amateur Astronomical Spectroscopy by Jack Martin
Faulkes Telescope, Chilterns Group

Imaging Competition—to be held at FAS Convention

RULES

1. You must be the copyright owner of any image submitted.
2. Only one image per person can be accepted.
3. Images must be submitted in JPEG format with no information on the image (e.g. image details, copyright statement, object names) - if any details are given then the image can not be entered. You may supply a title that we will add alongside the image number.
4. All entries must have an accompanying text file stating the details of how the image was made (e.g. exposure length, imaging device, telescope, filters).
5. Images can be submitted electronically, up to 4 days before the event, to fasimaging@googlemail.com
6. Entries after 4 days before the event must be submitted on the day, at registration.
7. Entries on the day must be submitted via either a CD or a USB memory stick to the registration coordinators.
8. All entries must be saved as the authors name.
Upon registration all delegates will receive a voting slip (one vote each), exact timing for final handing these in will be given on the day.
9. If there is a tie in the voting then the FAS council will vote on a winning entry
10. The winner(s) permits the FAS to use their image on the FAS website and in the FAS newsletter with appropriate credit given, of course all copyright with the individual submitting their image.
11. Only delegates in attendance are able to submit images, if you submit electronically and then do not sign in on the day then your entry will be void.

(Continued from page 1)

celebrate their 50th anniversary. The next normal meeting was planned for October – but there was confusion with the date and communication and who should be invited – no one appeared to have an up to date list!

Finally a meeting took place on 18th November 2006 – only nine societies attended. As usual, at these meeting, each society gave a short report on their activities since the last meeting but the main item on the agenda was SAGAS - Organisation and Future.

It was agreed that SAGAS should continue and a questionnaire should be sent out to all societies in the area inviting them to formally join.

It was also agreed that there should be four meetings a year – not three and a new SAGAS web site should be introduced, the old SAGAS web site was part of the 'Nightlife' site and had not been available for some time.

At the next meeting on 17th February 2007 at which 12 societies attended, discussion took place on the past 'unstructured' approach. It was agreed that a more structured approach was required for the future: The establishment of a Co-ordinating Committee was agreed.

The present membership of which are:-

Keith Brackenborough (Eastbourne) Co-ordinating Officer (Chairman of the committee):

John Axtell (Guildford) Secretary: David Woods (Hampshire): Communications/Newsletter:

John Murrell (Croydon) webmaster: John Stapleton (Basingstoke)

19 Societies have now formally joined: Basingstoke, Beckington, Brighton & Hove, Crawley, Croydon, Eastbourne, Ewell, Farnham, Guildford, Hampshire Astronomical .Group, Horsham, Lewes, Newbury, Solent, South East Kent, Vectis (Isle of Wight), Wadhurst, Wealden and Worthing.

It is expected that South Downs and Southampton – both original SAGAS societies will join shortly.

Since then a new logo has been introduced and a new web site www.sagas.org.uk has just been established.

Work is well underway for the first Newsletter which will appear quarterly.

There was much discussion on what societies would want from such an organization and many suggestions were forthcoming.

So SAGAS has been reborn, stronger, more organized and larger than the original. There is much work still to be done and our aim is simply to unite astronomical societies in the Southern Area so we can help each other, share ideas and observations, advise on telescopes and give our members a better service.

Keith Brackenborough: Tel: 01323 641980

LIST OF OFFICERS 2005/2006

President, Secretary, Treasurer & Newsletter Editor - See cover

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North West Group : Richard Sargent

West Midlands : Andy Salmon
west.midlands.rep@fedastro.org.uk

Yorkshire Group : Paul Harper

The loss of a planet - and the chaos it has caused.

By Samuel George

It has been about a year now since tiny Pluto had its classification as a planet revoked but the arguments over its nature still continue. I do wonder why people are so bothered by this. Okay, yes, we all grew up (well most of us anyway!) with their being 9 planets and I am sure we are all fond of little Pluto, but in what sense does it really matter?

The International Astronomical Union's (IAU) definition is sensible, it may seem a bit vague at first and have a few holes in it (mostly around the clearing the neighbourhood bit) but it is an improvement on no real definition. The IAU came up with three main conditions for an object to be considered a planet:

- The object must be in orbit around the Sun.
- The object must be massive enough to be a sphere by its own gravitational force. More specifically, its own gravity should pull it into a shape of hydrostatic equilibrium.
- It must have cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.

Pluto fails to meet the third condition. In fact on this point Alan Stern, leader of NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto has been pretty vocal pointing out that Mars, Jupiter and Neptune have so-called "Trojan" asteroids sharing their orbits. Though others, including the discoverer of Eris (Mike Brown) have supported this definition. Some have called this the "Great Pluto War", a funny though but I guess this is not just about physics. In the wider community a great number of petitions have been produced by the uninformed. I see this as a great and interesting challenge to astronomers. Inform and explain the reasons behind this decision – don't just blame those professionals. Even if you don't agree with the decision this is a great chance to teach the scientific method. In New Mexico it went a bit further. Clive Tombaugh was a resident in the state for a long time and in honour of him discovering Pluto March 13th will now be known as Pluto Planet Day.

Currently Pluto has been classified as a dwarf planet. A dwarf rabbit is still a rabbit, right?

You have to remember that the IAU has never before been called to name a planet never mind declassify one – this decision was not one taken lightly. Though this whole discussion probably would ring bells for any astronomer who had been around when Giuseppe Piazzi discovered, the now dwarf planet, Ceres (in 1801). It was the missing enigma, filling in the gap between Mars and Jupiter that proved according to the Bode's Law (later shown to be specious). It was only a year later that Heinrich Olbers discovered Pallas, at practically the same distance from the Sun. Two more objects were discovered in 1807 and for the next four decades astronomy textbooks listed all four bodies as planets! By this point William Herschel had suggested naming them asteroids, with Heinrich Olbers suggesting that they were probably fragments of a now destroyed planet. Thus the asteroid belt came to be (between 1845 and 1851 the number of asteroids increased to 15) and people forgot all the discussion of this. I reckon if Giuseppe Piazzi or Heinrich Olbers had been at the IAU discussion they would have had some interesting thoughts on the matter.

Pluto is smaller than seven moons in our solar system. Over the past 15 years many objects have been discovered with similar orbital distances as Pluto, revealing that Pluto probably belongs to this vast population of icy trans-Neptunian objects – commonly referred to as the Kuiper Belt.

So what are we left with? 8 planets and 3 dwarf planets (Ceres, Pluto and Eris) – and a lot of rocks. Well to be a bit more technical our solar system includes several distinct populations – the planets, the dwarf planets, satellites, an asteroid belt, the Kuiper Belt, the Oort Cloud....

I have to say I personally like a slightly different definition suggested by Steven Soter – it has a similar idea to the IAU definition. Firstly let's deal with the upper mass limit. I think we would all agree that the onset of deuterium fusion would be reasonable, this is slightly complicated by brown dwarfs – but we can classify them separately

(classically the limit of any fusion occurring has been taken to 13 times the mass of Jupiter). The lower limit is still awkward but if we come up with some definitions then this might make things clearer:

- A "primary" body is a star or substar formed by core accretion from an interstellar cloud.
- A "substar" is a body of mass less than 80 times that of Jupiter; this is the lower limit for stellar hydrogen fusion (this includes the sub-division of Brown Dwarfs).
- A "planet" is an end product of secondary accretion from a disk around a primary body.
- An "end product" of disk accretion is a body containing more than 100 times the mass of all bodies that share its orbital zone.
- Two bodies share an "orbital zone" if their orbit cross a common radial distance from the primary and their periods are non-resonant and differ by less than an order of magnitude.

Now to determine if a body of mass say M is the end product of disk accretion we use:

$$\mu = M/m$$

$$\mu > 100$$

We define m to be the aggregate mass of all bodies that share its orbital zone. If and orbiting around a primary star or substar then the body is considered a planet. If we use this and the accepted values for Pluto, Ceres and Eris then they are not planets. Of course, there are problems with this idea – especially about determining the value of m. I still think it makes a nice and succinct definition and actually works nicely alongside the IAU definition. I actually think this would nicely replace the vagueness that is suggested by the third condition set down by the IAU.

Pluto being a planet has lost any scientific rationale; it is now one for historians. I hate to say that. If we did include Pluto then there is no physical basis to exclude dozens of other candidates and then the term planet would lose any impact or real meaning.

Expect more dwarf planets. When the IAU were originally considering the options of classification no more than 12 other objects including Pallas, Vesta, Hygeia, Senda and Quaoar were to be considered as planetary candidates. I originally took the view of "I do wonder why people are so bothered by this" and I still am. We have lost Pluto as a planet but we have gained a whole new classification. Oh, and remember that there are 8 planets in our solar system but, as I write this, there are 241 extrasolar planets known!

References:

Steven Soter, 2006, *AJ*, 132, 2513

<http://www.exoplanet.eu>

<http://space.newscientist.com/article/dn9846-new-planet-definition-sparks-furore.html>

O. Gingerich (2006). "The Path to Defining Planets", 2006.

LETTERS

Hello

I am Researching an Astronomer called Charles Frederick Butterworth (he was born in 1870 -1946) for a talk to Isle Of Man Astronomical Society in September.

Whilst I have found out quite a lot about him, two things I could do with includes a picture of the observatory that he had in Poynton from 1897-1927, the house was called Waterloo.

The other thing is a picture of him.

I have tried the B.A.A /R.A.S/M.A.S who have been very good and many other places as well, can any readers help?

Best Wishes

From Gary Kewin email: gary@iomastonomy.org

REVIEWS

SPACE RACE

(A Fourth Estate hardback book - £20.00)
(Paperback -£5.99. DVD and Paperback – £17.97)

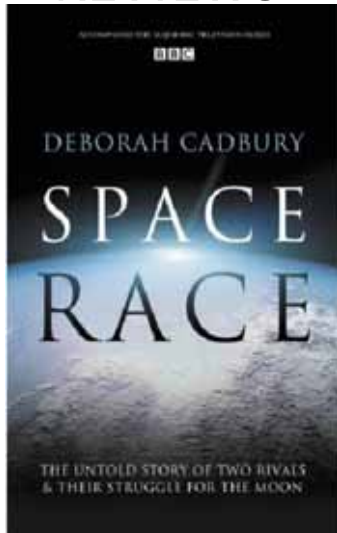
By Deborah Cadbury

This book is sub-titled "The untold story of two Rivals and their struggle for the Moon".

And this really is what makes this book different to the normal stories of the space race; in that it concentrates on two main characters, whose personal ambitions and abilities were so strong that they were recognised and exploited by the world's two super powers of the 1950s and 60s. It is one of those rare true life stories that can never be repeated and would be hard to make up.

The book accompanies the BBC television series of the same name. I felt the three television programmes were very entertaining and captured what I already understood but also enlightened me on the less romantic side of the space race. But reading of how these two men's lives and careers developed through the Second World War and beyond, really brought to life how difficult it was and how amazing it was, that so much was done in so short a time. The author doesn't hide from Wernher Von Braun's involvement in the horrors of the concentration camps, where the V2 rockets were made. The story of how the Americans managed to capture Von Braun goes alongside how his rival in the Soviet Union, Sergei Korolev, was taken away from his family and cruelly imprisoned on false charges, later to be released purely to work on the development of rockets.

As the story develops into the actual race into space it is intriguing to hear of the struggle and difficulties both brilliant but ruthless men experienced; Korolev with under-funding and power struggles and



Von Braun with lack of trust and ambition on the part of the Americans.

I particularly enjoyed reading how Korolev chose Yuri Gagarin to be the first man in space and the account of that historic flight. One particularly powerful passage of the book lets you share the personal trauma that Korolev felt, as he sent Gagarin possibly to his death and the joy and relief at the success of the mission.

We can marvel at what was achieved, but must never forget the reasons why rockets were so important to the Soviets and the Americans; in their obsession to dominate each other and why they were developed and used during the war. Countless lives were lost before the Americans 'won' the race in 1969.

The world knew of Von Braun, as everything the Americans did was done in a blaze of publicity. The complete opposite was true for the Soviets where only success was used for maximum propaganda value. Few inside and no one outside of the Soviet Union, knew the name of their Chief Designer, Korolev. What would have been achieved if these two men; who were aware of each others existence, but never met; could have worked together?

Deborah Cadbury has a style of writing that ensures you don't put the book down until finished. The amount of research that was obviously necessary, to pull all the facts together, must have been immense.

Although there are a few strange printing errors which occasionally disrupted my reading, I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it without hesitation.

Keith Lane – Callington Community Astronomy Group

Eleven by Graham Smith

"The ground shakes and there is an ear shattering roar like thunder as Apollo 11 leaves the launch pad at Cape Kennedy at 13:32:00 UT on July 16, 1969. The three astronauts inside, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mike Collins are on their way to the moon."

Eleven by Graham Smith is a series of melodic electronic instrumental tracks that attempts to capture the essence of man going to the Moon. It is a musical tribute to Apollo 11. The album is set chronologically as the spacecraft leaves the Earth on its trip to land on the Moon. This style of music is not normally my taste, I'm more of a metal/punk fan but I have to say this album hit it off with me immediately. The mixed in sounds of communications between the spacecraft and the control centre really give you a feel of the mission occurring – and of course "the eagle has landed" reminds you that they have indeed landed on the Moon. This album is one I could easily just relax to, it's not one to get you jumping around the place but then again I don't this the composer really wanted to go for this. It is an ambitious album, by an independent musician, but I have to say it was surprisingly pleasing to listen to. Though it is not the Planet's suite by Holst, it is still one of the more enjoyable space themed musical compositions I have heard.

Samples of this album can be heard on the composer's site: www.gsmithmusic.co.uk and the album can be purchased on the site for £7.99 (+ postage and packing).

Samuel George



String by Diana Syder

Publisher: Smith/Doorstep Books ISBN-10: 1902382870

It may seem a strange concept to most people, the idea of combining science and poetry and I must admit that at first I was equally dubious. But as Syder points out in 'The poetry Machine' they can compliment each other beautifully. 'A poem is like a star formation, primordial words scattered across the vacuum of the page' is a good example of this.

The enquiring style of Syders poems use simple metaphors and similes to illustrate some of the more complex areas of physics in a new and sometimes intriguing ways, in some places comparing the inner workings of a computer with the city of Manchester.

It does however, seem that in some cases Syders explanations and comparisons go a little beyond what is needed for the reader to understand what she is trying to say. In others it takes a while for the message of the poem to come through. Overall the book is a good insight into the world of physics for both scientists and the public, the final section with the same title as the book being the highlight.

The book costs £7.95 and can be found at all good book shops.

Elizabeth Birmingham, University of Birmingham AS



Lobbying Can Work Sometimes

A letter in response to Samuel George

Dear Samuel

Southampton Laser Gateway Proposal

Thank you for your correspondence expressing your views on the above proposal. You may have seen recent publicity regarding the decision taken by the Southampton Partnership and Southampton City Council not to proceed with the trials for the proposed Laser Gateway project.

This project was conceived as an innovative way of promoting the city and its heritage, however we have listened to what people have said and want our efforts to improve the image and perception of the city to have widespread support. This project did not have that support and therefore will not go ahead. Factors included in this decision were:

- Continuing public concerns regarding light pollution and disturbance to the night sky of neighbouring authorities,
- The increasing costs of holding the trials and conducting a full appropriate assessment of the effect on the environment
- The likelihood that the trials would not have had a conclusive

result and that further tests would have to be undertaken over a longer period of time than originally anticipated.

The Southampton Partnership is an over-arching strategic partnership that brings together at a local level the different parts of the public sector (including the City Council, Police, National Health Service, Job Centre Plus, Business Link and Learning and Skills Council) as well as private business, community and voluntary sectors (including the Chamber of Commerce and the city's two universities) so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together.

The Partnership is working with the City Council and others to explore other ways to raise the profile of Southampton and celebrate its many assets which include maritime heritage, extensive parks and open spaces, varied cultural and artistic events, a fine record on innovation and on responding to climate change.

We have some exciting ideas under consideration and are consulting with other stakeholders on options to take forward.

Yours sincerely

Ros Cassy – Chair of Southampton Partnership
Southampton Partnership, c/o Chief Executives Office
Southampton City Council

(Continued from page 8)

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
Sep 05 AGM & 10 year celebrations

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.fivas.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 Goss, email: klg494@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

Aug 02 The Third Dimension– the use of 3D Anaglyphs

Sep 02 The Third Dimension– the use of 3D Anaglyphs

Oct 04 Sputnik and 50 years of exploring space

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 OF LONDON AS

Meets second Monday of month (exc Aug) at: grist Church Chapel, Redford Way, Uxbridge AND at St John's Ambulance Hall, North Harrow
Contact: David Arditti email: d@davidarditti.co.uk
Website: www.wolas.org.uk

Sep 10 40 Years of Amateur Astronomy (40th Anniversary Meeting)

Oct 08 40 Years of Planetary Astronomy Eiwán Williams

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

WEYMOUTH AS

Meets fourth Friday of month: 7.30pm at The Old School Rooms, Upwey, DT3 5QE (opposite Wishing Well)
Contact: Nigel Dalley 07968-115002 Email: webmaster@weymouthastronomy.co.uk
www.weymouthastronomy.co.uk
Sep 21 Image Processing Rob Hodgkinson

WILTSHIRE AS

Contact: Andrew Burns Email: anglesburns@hotmail.com

WIGTOWNSHIRE AS

Meet second Wednesday of month at Glenamour, Newton Stewart.
Contact: Robin Bellerby 01671-404387 / 07966-413679
Email: robin@glenamour.com
www.wigtownshire-astro.org.uk

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@wolvlas.org.uk www.wolvlas.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

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

email: kevinthurstan@tiscali.co.uk –or visit our website www.astroadas.org.uk

AS OF GLASGOW

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

Sep 20 Skating on thin ice –what's in the universe freezer? Dr Helen Fraser

Oct 19 O'Niell Lecture Prof Carlos Frenk

Nov 15 The Sun at high magnification Dr Lyndsay Fletcher

20 Dec Active galactic nuclei & supermassive black holes Prof Ian Robson

Jan 17 Viking Astronomy Martin Lunn

Feb 20 Member's Night

Mar 17 t.b.a.

Apr 19 Killer Neutrons from Space Dr Alex MacKinnon

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: croach@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/>

BASSETLAW AS

Meets at The Village Hall, Tylden Rd, Rhodesia, Notts. S80 3HL

Contact: Andrew Patten email: andrew_patten@talk21.com

Sep 19 The Sun and Earth's Climate Martin Lunn

Oct 31 Earth—the only intelligent planet? Dr Simon Goodwin

Nov 28 A UFO over Worksop? Les Jepson

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

25 Sep: Proving Einstein right Ian Morrison

30 Oct: French Guiana: Scoundrels, Spaceflight, etc Michael Gill

27 Nov: TBA Dr David Rothey

BLACKPOOL & DISTRICT AS

Meets 1st Wed of month at St Kentigern's Church Hall, Newton Drive, Blackpool
Contact: Terry Devon Tel: 01253-625975 email: info@blackpoolastronomy.org.uk
www.blackpoolastronomy.org.uk

Oct 3 50 Years of the Lovell Telescope Prof Ian Morrison

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.freereserve.co.uk

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

10 Sep 2006 Explosion of Nova RS Ophiuchi Dr Tim O'Brien

24 Sep Touring Taurus Paul Money

8 Oct SLR Astrophotography Robert Williams

22 Oct Sir Isaac Newton & Surrey Pumas Mike Frost

5 Nov Basics of Spaceflight Catherine Waddington

19 Nov New Evidence for Volcanic Eruptions on Mars Prof Lionel Wilson

3 Dec The Star of Bethlehem Martin Lunn

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/

BRIDGEND 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

Www.carolianastro.org.uk

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

Sep 10 Aurora

Dr David Gavine

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 Chris Longhorn. Tel: 01788-334756 email: chrishlonghorn@lycos.co.uk

www.cawas.freereserve.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

DERBY & DISTRICT AS

Meets first Friday (exc July) at 7.30 at The Friends Meeting House, St Helen's St, Derby

Contact: Dave Selfe email: david.selfe1@btopenworld.com

www.derbyastronomy.org

DONCASTER AS

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday (speaker on 4th Thurs) at Church House—behind St George Minster, Doncaster. Observing at Observatory in Austerfield Field Study Centre at dusk in winter on last Fridays.

Contact: Mrs Lesley Hardware on 01302-743352 www.donastro.org.uk

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

Meet every 3rd Monday in the month all year round (except August) from 7:30pm, at the Friends Meeting House, Quaker Lane, Beverley.

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

www.astrogen.karoo.net/era.index.html

FALKIRK ASTRONOMERS (ASSOCIATION OF) AFA

Meets second Weds of month (exc June/July) at Old Peoples Welfare Hall, Laurieston, Falkirk, at 7.00pm.

Contact: Steve Montgomery 01324877479 email: AFA@astronomy-falkirk.co.uk
www.astronomy-falkirk.co.uk

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: Debby Quartier. 01481 725760 quartiers@cwgsy.net

Lamorna, Route Charles, St Peter Port, Guernset. GY1 1QS

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 hgas@dfish.demon.co.uk

HARROGATE AS

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

Contact: Patricia Hunt 01423 866067

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 Entwistle (01422-378368) or visit FAS Diary on FAS webpage.

Sep 19 Sun and Aurora Dr Barbara Bromage

Oct 17 Formation of Stars and Planets Dr Rene Oujdermeir

Nov 14 James Nasmyth-The Lost Gardens of Fireside Kevin Kilburn

Feb 06 Geobiology— Mars & AMASE Dr Lianne Benning

Mar 05 Infra-Red Astronomy Dr Mark Jones

Apr 02 Astrochemistry Dr Andrew Markwick-Kemper

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: sharonel@charon.karoo.co.uk

www.heras.org.uk

HUDDERSFIELD ASTRO. & PHIL. SOCIETY

Meetings at Observatory and at 4A Railway Street.

Contact: Paul Harper 01484-606832 www.huddersfieldastronomy.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

11 Sep The Discovery of Pluto

Martin Lunn

9 Oct Astrophotography

Brian Griffin

13 Nov John Dollond— Achromatic Aberration

Madeline Cox

IRISH AA

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

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

ISLE OF MAN AS

Meets first Thursday at 7.45pm at the IOM Observatory, Foxdale.

Contact: James Martin e-mail: ballaterson@manx.net

www.iomastronomy.org

JERSEY AC

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

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

KNOWLE AS

Meets 1st Mondays (+/- 1 week for BHs - no meet Aug) at St George & St Theresa's Parish Centre, Dorridge, Solihull. B93 8TZ

Contact: Nigel Foster. Tel: 01676-535941 e-mail: nftest00@hotmail.com

www.knowleastro.org.uk

Sep 3 Archeo-Astronomy

Sarah Symons

Nov 5 Observing Variable Stars in Light Polluted Skies

Gary Poyner

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

LETCHWORTH & 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 Tues at the Waveney Gymnastics Centre (access Notley Rd). All meetings begin at 7pm.

Richard Chilvers: 28 Blyford road, Lowestoft 01502 57401

email: good.goat@tiscali.co.uk

May 10: Catch a Falling Star

Kevin Wright

14 Jun: Seeing Is Believing

Kevin Wright

LUTON AS

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

Contact: David Early daval@kbnnet.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.freeseve.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

(Continued from page 7)

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
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.freemove.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 Mondays 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
Sep 04 Astronomy and Brewing John Brown
Sep 25 Solar System

NORWICH AA

Meetings held on 3rd Fri and Sat of month at 19.45 at The Seething Observatory, Toad Lane, Thwaite St Mary - signposted off the B1332 (Adults £2.50, Kids £1.50)
Contact: David Balcombe 01953 602624. email: drbalcombe@tiscali.co.uk
www.naastronomy.com
Sep 21 A Real Tour of the Night Sky Mark Thompson
Oct 19 Understanding the Universe Dave Balcombe
Nov 16 The Sun Mark Turner
Dec 14 An Evening with Edmund Halley Ivan Rubaker

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 622510 e-mail: chris.solomon@cyanet.com.cy

PAPWORTH ASTRONOMY CLUB

Meets at Vinter Room, Vinter Close (off Elm Way), Papworth Everard, nr Huntingdon at 7.30 on the first Wednesday of every month at 19.30.
Contact: Keith Tritton - phone 01767 677219, email kpt2@tutor.open.ac.uk

Peter Sandford—tel 01480 830729, email peter@cheere.demon.co.uk
Sep 5 The instruments of darkness tell us the truth Keith Tritton
Oct 3 Icy Worlds Michael Czajkowski
Dec 5 Mars Express Jerry Workman
Jan 9 Formation of Stars & Galaxies Stephen Wilkins

PLYMOUTH AS

Meets at 7.30pm at GK Centre, Alfred Street (off Lockyer St), Plymouth on 2nd Friday of every month.
Contact Alan Penman (Chair) 01752-338491 email: oakmount12@aol.com -
Or Clive Beech (Sec) 01752-211799

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.freemove.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.

RUGBY & DISTRICT AS

Meets 3rd Sundays of month at 7.30pm in the Conference Room, Three Horseshoes Hotel, Sheep Street, Rugby.
Contact: Julian Leckie Tel: 01788-572152 email: julianleck@aol.com

www.rugbyastro.co.uk

Sep 16 Astro-Chemistry & Origins of Life Prof Nigel Mason

Nov 18 t.b.a. Callum Potter

Dec 16 Intro to Astronomy and Observing Dr Ann Bonell

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 www.salfordastro.org.uk

Oct 24 3D Imaging in Astronomy Anthony Jennings

Nov 14 Science and Fun: Fun and Science Cliff Meredith

Dec 12 Nevil Maskelyne—who opposed John Harrison Dr Allan Chapman

Jan 9 Capt James Cook & the transit of Venus Prof R D Davies

Feb 13 Russian Manned Missions to the Moon Colin Cheetham

Mar 12 Aurora Borealis: Natures Light Show Dr Jim Wild

Apr 9 The Pyramids & a Scottish Astronomer Morad Gohrbal

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 e-mail: tylazy@yahoo.ie

www.shannonsideastronomy.com

SHROPSHIRE AS

Observing meetings are held monthly on the Saturdays at Rodington and Ford near Shrewsbury and quarterly speaker meetings are held on Friday at Gateway in Shrewsbury with a monthly observing meeting at Rodington Village Hall
Contact: Richard Pearce 01952 595168. e-mail: d-woodward@supanet.com
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.freemove.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 LINCAS 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. PE12 0XF www.solags.co.uk

SOUTH WEST HERTS AS

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

(Continued on page 5)

Deadlines for submission for the next newsletter:

Winter 2007/8—12 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.