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# FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

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

## SWANSEA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IS SIXTY YEARS OLD.

**S**wansea Astronomical Society will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2008. This will be marked with a daylong event to be held in the Dylan Thomas Centre. The programme of speakers throughout the day will include Andy Lound of the Planetary Society and Professor Mike Edmunds of the University of Wales, Cardiff. An exhibition of members' astronomical and historical photographs will be displayed, as well as several national and local trade stands.

The Society was formed in 1948 and in 1993 assumed the tenancy of the Marina Towers Observatory on the Swansea sea front. The Towers houses a 20-inch Shafer-Maksutov telescope, the largest astronomical telescope in Wales, as well as offices and a teaching and exhibition room. The domed observatory is reached via a 76-step spiral staircase that is home to a 50-foot high scale model of the Solar System.

The site is visited every week during term time by schools from Swansea, Llanelli, Neath and Port Talbot. In addition to this scholastic contribution, the Society invites the general public to attend monthly Winter and Spring 'Star' evenings and weekly afternoons in the Summer months, as well as offering a practical observing course for beginners.

For further information call our Public Relations Officer on 01792 299311 or [annandbrian@abspink.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:annandbrian@abspink.freeserve.co.uk)



Marina Towers Observatory

## FAS CONVENTION 2007

**T**he annual FAS convention was once again hosted at the Birmingham Midland Institute. Last year I commented on the poor air conditioning at this venue so I should start by reporting that this year the air quality in the main auditorium was much improved. With a less oppressive atmosphere it was possible to admire what is in fact a very well designed lecture theatre. Refreshment provision would also have been good had the Coffee Bar not closed before the afternoon tea break. To be positive, however, the sale of sandwiches during the lunch break was a much appreciated improvement. This area of Birmingham seems to offer only the Starbucks experience within easy walking distance. The event was once again well organised and the mid-day business meeting was conducted efficiently. We were treated this year to a well balanced and entertaining programme of lectures on a range of topics, the range of trade stands provided good browsing material and the celebrated FAS raffle enabled the Brannel Astronomy delegates to once again walk away with prizes - which makes the long drive from Cornwall worthwhile. Surely our luck cannot continue - but watch this space!

**Jerry Stone** from Letchworth and District AS started the proceedings with a review of the do's and don'ts on **Running a Star Party**. This talk could have been just a list - and yes, it was a list, but Jerry gave a series of forcefully presented arguments for good planning and lots of good advice for organising a successful event. I came away convinced that 'Failure to Prepare' was indeed 'Preparation for Failure'. A list? - Yes, but an excellent list.

**Prof. Mike Cruise** from The University of Birmingham talked on **The Search for Gravitational Waves**. He reviewed the origins, history and nature of gravitational radiation and described in detail the current efforts to achieve direct detection of this predicted consequence of General Relativity. With the inexorable loss of energy by the double pulsar providing overpowering evidence that Einstein's predictions concerning these ripples in the fabric of space-time are correct, their direct detection has remained elusive. Prof. Cruise reviewed the construction of the 4 km baseline LIGO laser interferometric detector which will make possible detection of gravitational radiation in the 10 Hz - 10 kHz range. LIGO is expected to detect radiation from supernova events in 3-4 years. He went on to preview the construction and launch (scheduled for 2018) of the 5 million km baseline phase locked laser interferometric detector LISA. Destined for an Earth tracking orbit, this device should be capable of detecting high frequency gravitational echoes of the Big Bang. Our total dependence on electromagnetic radiation as an information carrier may soon be over.

**Samuel George** reviewed preparations by the IAS to mark the **2009 International Year of Astronomy**. In the UK emphasis would be given to Dark Sky Awareness but there were plans to have a Universal Astronomy Day on July 21<sup>st</sup>. A solar eclipse would occur on the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Javea & District Astronomical Society to Link Up With The U3A

**T**he Javea and District Astronomical Society (J&DAS) meets on the first Monday of each month.

Javea is located midway between Valencia and Alicante on the Costa Blanca in Spain. In October 2007, however, the Society became one of the many clubs/societies within the popular U3A (University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age) organisation which is based in nearby Dénia.

The U3A is a voluntary organisation dedicated to providing educational, recreational, cultural and social opportunities to its members. Its multi-national membership is open to all who are no longer in full time employment. It has been going from strength to strength in recent years in Spain and has opened a branch in Dénia which already has a membership in excess of 400 people. The organisation provides its members with access to various groups which are run on a voluntary basis by people who have a skill or interest that they wish to share. Members pay a nominal annual fee to U3A and then join any of the groups which appeal to them.

Prior to the J&DAS joining forces with the U3A, the Dénia branch of the U3A did not have an astronomical group. Additionally, the J&DAS was looking for opportunities to expand its membership and raise its profile. Both organisations have now benefited from the association; the U3A will provide its members with access to a new and interesting group and the J&DAS membership has seen a threefold increase as a direct result of the access to a large pool of potential new members. Furthermore, the J&DAS is now able to use the well established communications



methods of the U3A to reach more people, i.e., via the U3A website, meetings and networking.

J&DAS has its own page on the Dénia U3A website and can be reached at <http://u3adenia.memberlodge.org/> then U3A Dénia-

Home, followed by Groups and then opening up the Astronomy Club page.

Our monthly meetings are now more structured to provide wider appeal to people with varying levels of understanding of astronomy. We hope to continue to achieve an increasing membership by giving talks on specific topics of interest by knowledgeable members or guest speakers. We will also provide information and guidance for beginners; have regular features concerning monthly topics of interest in the night sky, reviews of books, software, equipment and hands on observing sessions. Mike Glazier continues to be the J&DAS Group Leader, Christine Ord is the direct link between our Society and the U3A and Ed Morley continues to be our Secretary and focal point for liaison with the FAS.

The photograph below shows Brian Horn with his Celestron 9.25 Smith Cassegrain telescope in his astrodome which he self-built in his garden. The "dome" stands on a concrete plinth and has a sliding roof. Brian will be giving a short talk on telescopes at our next meeting in December.

We welcome visitors to our meetings and if any astronomers happen to be in the Costa Blanca on holiday, business, etc then we would be delighted to see them. For further information please contact Ed Morley at [edmoinspain@terra.es](mailto:edmoinspain@terra.es)

Enjoy the night sky!

## JERSEY ASTRONOMY MOVES SOUTH

**T**he island of Jersey is separated from the French coast by a series of smaller rocky reefs many visited by yachtsmen and fishermen during the low water period. They carry quaint names, the Ecrehous reef lies to the East, the Paternosters to the North but dwarfing them all is the Minquiers reef 11 miles from Jersey's South coast and 10 from the nearest French islands.

On Jersey, the Astronomy Club's main base is the Sir Patrick Moore Centre near the south-west coast and WAS the most southern public observatory in the British Isles. That changed when a decision was made to install a small observing facility on the Minquiers Reef. The only possible place above the high water mark is on a small island called the Maitresse Ile where a group of small stone cottages, once used by fishermen, cling to the rock formation. Only a couple of hundred feet in length at high water the Ile can be located at 48.58.30 North and 002.03.69 West.

The island of Jersey measures eight by seven miles, at spring tides the rise and fall can total 40 feet, so the tidal movement is fierce. At the Minquiers, at low water, the overall land mass is larger than Jersey. The main inhabitants are seabirds, seals, and pods of dolphins or porpoises.

Nine members of the astronomy club boarded a powerful launch owned by committee member and Master Mariner Frank Lawrence. Frank who owns one of the small cottages has made hundreds of trips to the reef over a period of years and is an expert at navigating the narrow channels. On board, apart from essential supplies, water, food and other 'refreshments' the crew brought two three inch refractors, and within minutes of landing both were set up and trained on the sun. The 'seeing' appeared to be clearer than on the mainland and at night with me lack of light pollution the nights are stunning. Refractors were selected as the best telescopes to deploy as in a very short time mirrors would suffer from salt contamination. One

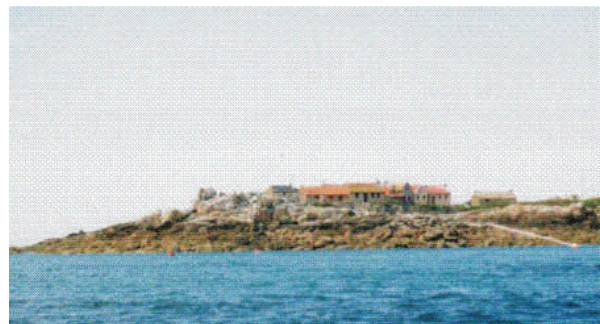
telescope is housed in a cottage and can be used by visitors to the reef, any who wish to remain overnight must bring all their supplies with them including sleeping bags and any extra optical equipment.

The Jersey Astronomy Club is twinned with the South Downs Society and Chichester Planetarium.

Marcel Le Masson, Chairman, Jersey Astronomy Club



Above: Members attending the inaugural set-up  
Below: A view of the location



(Continued from page 1)

following day and he noted that 2009 was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo Landing. Sam urged all delegates to participate in a wide-ranging discussion of activities to be held during a number of focus weeks.

**Prof. Philip Diamond** of the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics talked of the history of **The Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope**, he reviewed on-going research at the installation and looked to the future of this iconic instrument. Prof. Diamond talked of the early work made possible by the construction of the telescope which was started in 1952, 'looked like a dish' in 1956 and first moved in 1957. He recalled the use of the telescope to detect signals from Sputnik, to record close up picture telemetry of the lunar surface, the discovery of quasars, of OH molecular emission, work on gravitational lensing and on pulsars. The instrument had been upgraded in 1971 but had been very nearly lost during the violent storms of 1976. The future of the telescope now lies largely in its role (since the 1980's) as a key player in long (and in continental scale very long) baseline radio interferometry and through the MERLIN and eMERLIN projects. There is clearly great affection for this the largest moving grade one listed building.

**Prof. Colin Pillinger** reminded us that **Space is a Funny Place** by reviewing 50 years or so of Space Exploration. He recounted a series of anecdotes including that it was Harriot (1560 - 1621) who first observed the moon through a telescope and who brought back tobacco with Walter Raleigh. Prof. Pillinger quickly homed in on what is clearly his dominant scientific interest - the exploration of Mars and the search there for extraterrestrial life. He reviewed the history of the Beagle II project from scientific, political and financial viewpoints, revealing not unexpectedly that it is this project which continues to occupy his mind and his enthusiasm - notably when he reported



*Professor Colin Pillinger giving his entertaining talk proposals that NASA might yet use Beagle II technology in their near future lunar exploration programmes.*

Another great day of astronomy. Congratulations to all who contributed to the planning and smooth running. We look forward to 2008.

Brian Parsons. Brannel Astronomy

*Editor's Note! The only less than successful aspect to this good event was the rather poor attendance compared with previous Conventions. To those of you who didn't get there—you missed a super day of astronomy!!*

## NOTICES



Norwich Astronomical Society  
Public Event Programme for 2008  
Public events at Seething Observatory

**January** - Friday 18th and Saturday 19th

"Mars - Canals and Controversy" By Adrian Orr

**February** - Friday 15th and Saturday 16th

"Deep Space" By Mark Thompson

**March** - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>

"Life on Earth - Why?" By Dave Cook

**April** - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>

"Optical Equipment for Beginners" By Andrew Robertson

Entry £2.50 adults £1.50 children. All events start at 8 pm (doors open 7.30) and take place at the Seething Observatory, Toad Lane, Thwaite St Mary, signposted from the B1332.

Details at [www.norwich.astronomicalsociety.org.uk/](http://www.norwich.astronomicalsociety.org.uk/)

Contact: Dave Balcombe 01953 602624

### Isle of Wight Star Party

*Some of the Darkest Skies in Southern England*

Vectis Astronomical Society in association with SAGAS

6th-10th March 2008

All FAS societies are welcome to attend.

Small tent will be £8 per person per night.

Caravans with 2 people will be £16 per person per night.

2/3/4 bedroom Chalets are all available at £18 per person per night.

Electric hookups are available

Vectis has arranged special fares for cars and passengers with

'Wightlink' ferries to get you to the Island.

For further details contact [www.iowstarparty.org](http://www.iowstarparty.org)

or, on the SAGAS web site: [www.sagas.org.uk](http://www.sagas.org.uk)

The Summer 'open meeting/convention' for SAGAS will be on 19th July 2008 arranged by the Basingstoke AS.

## LETTERS

Dear FAS Members

I would be most grateful if you could publicise the following competition to schools, teachers, and school students through any channels you may have:

Catch a Star 2008 - an astronomical competition for school students - "Catch a Star" and win fantastic prizes!

This astronomical competition, run by ESO (the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere) and the European Association for Astronomy Education, is open now.

School students from around the world can enter, writing astronomical projects or creating astronomical artwork, to win prizes such as astronomy software, stunning posters, and exclusive "Catch a Star" T-shirts.

In addition, students from Europe and Chile can win exciting travel prizes, such as a once-in-a-lifetime trip to visit ESO's Very Large Telescope on Cerro Paranal in Chile, or to other observatories in Europe.

The deadline for entries is 29 February 2008.

Find out more on the web at:

<http://www.eso.org/catchstar/cas2008/>

Printable flyers about the competition are available as PDF files at:

<http://www.eso.org/catchstar/cas2008/flyers/>

If you have any questions about the competition, please contact [eduinfo@eso.org](mailto:eduinfo@eso.org).

Many thank

Douglas Pierce-Price  
ESO Education Officer



## REVIEW

### Stargazers' Almanac 2008

Monthly guide to the stars and planets

32pp; 420 x 297mm; 1 903458 75 7 - £12.99

*'Explore the wonders of the night skies with Stargazers' Almanac 2008 - no telescope required! Track the planets, locate the Milky Way, discover the heavenly Giraffe, Orion's dogs and Draco the dragon, recognise the signs of the zodiac and watch meteor showers and other planetary phenomena.'* - so says the description on the website advertising this publication.

For once, the advertising blurb does not exaggerate. This is a well produced and attractive product.

At one level it is a simple calendar, but on another it is a pretty comprehensive almanac of the heavens.

Each monthly chart features a double spread giving views of the night sky looking north and looking south. It also shows the daily phases of the moon and a guide to altitude at transit. In addition there are observing notes covering not only 'what is up' that month but also some of the facts and myths associated with the stars and planets.

This year's edition has been extended to includes 'Star Legends Season by Season' - covering Spring—Ursa Major; Summer—Ophiuchus; Autumn—Pisces; and Winter—The Pleiades.

There is a page on spotting satellites and also a page on light pollution.

Produced at A3 landscape format it is designed to hang from a central wire loop in the rear binding. However this only lasts until 1st January, when it will be hung from a hole in the bottom of the page, converting it to A2 portrait format.

All in all a nice and useful product.

Frank Johns

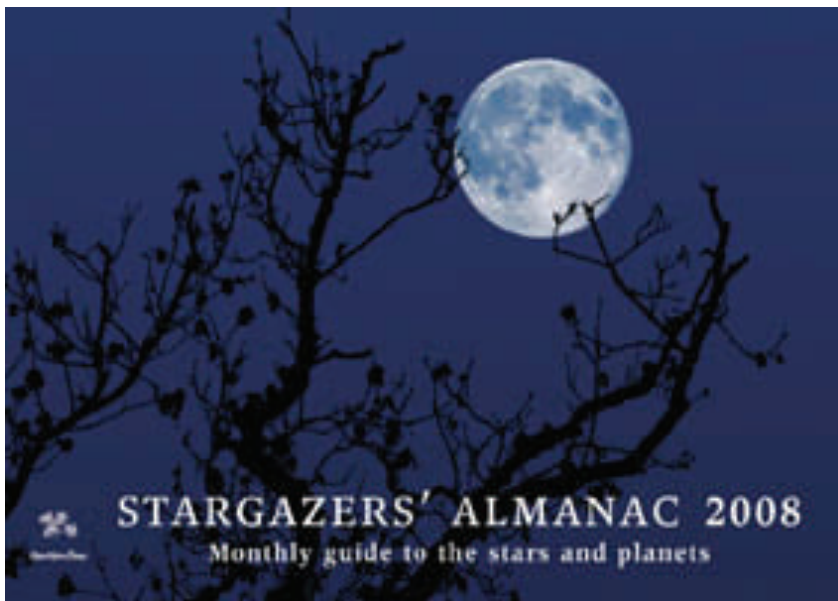
### Volunteer Wanted for FAS Council

There is a vacancy on the FAS Council for a volunteer to undertake the duties of PR/Marketing for the FAS.

The duties would include general PR/Marketing of the activities of the FAS and the securing of advertisers for the various FAS publications, principally the Astrocalendar and the Newsletter.

Experience in the field of PR or adverting would of course be useful, but the prime requirement is for an enthusiastic person prepared to assist in furthering our activities and interests in Astronomy.

For further information contact Callum Potter or Frank Johns (see contact details on the Page 1)



### OBITUARY.

DAVID EARLY 1932-2007

It was with a great sense of sadness and shock that we, at the Luton Astronomical Society learnt of the sudden death of David Early in April. He had been an active member of the Society since its inception in 1969; holding the post of President and Programme Secretary for much of that time.

Each year, during his long stint as Program Secretary, he never failed to provide an excellent and diverse series of lectures covering all aspects of astronomy and cosmology. David had the ability to attract some of the leading professionals and amateurs in both these fields.

It would be untrue to say that every talk went without a hitch. On those rare occasions where a speaker failed to materialize, due to illness, severe weather conditions or getting lost on route, David stepped in and proved to be an accomplished, informative and most entertaining speaker.

He had a keen interest in many aspects of astronomy. His observational work detailed in his excellent photographic, oil paintings and pastel records portray a man of great skill and accomplishment. The Crab Nebula, Hale Bopp, Solar Eclipses and the Harvest Moon were just some of his subjects.

As President of the Luton Astronomical Society David, while always available to advise and help members, gave a sense of gravitas that encouraged and instilled a sense of order and responsibility in the workings of the committee and membership.

One might have expected David to have taken up astronomy as a full time career, but after having spent a spell working in banking, ever an individualist, he went into teaching and brought astronomy with him. A number of his past students credited David with having

kindled an interest in astronomy in their own lives.

Indeed, David's passion for educating the masses led to him presenting numerous WEA courses in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

While his keen intellect, his photographic, artistic and observational skills, his administrative acumen and last though not least, his warm and genuine friendship will be sorely missed by all, we rejoice in having experienced his presence in our lives.

Tony Tucker (Education Officer) Luton.Astronomical.Society



LAS members outside the LAS Observatory, Univ of Bedfordshire, Putteridge Bury near Luton. David Early is seen here far right - March 07

## 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](http://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 Geoff Flood 0161 980 1675

email: [geoffrey513flood@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffrey513flood@btinternet.com) —or visit our website [www.astroadas.org.uk](http://www.astroadas.org.uk)

### AS OF GLASGOW

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

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](http://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](mailto:cjroach@worldonline.co.uk)

[www.andoverastronomy.org.uk](http://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](http://www.aylesbury-astronomy.org.uk)

### AYRSHIRE AS

Meetings 3rd Mon of month at Ayr Academy, Fort St, Ayr

John Walker email: [gm0dig@hotmail.com](mailto:gm0dig@hotmail.com)

Jan 21: Women in Astronomy

Wayne Lowe

Feb 18: The Outer Gas Planets

Duncan Lunan

Mar 17: Astro Photography

Roger Harman

Apr 21: Mars Exploration

Robert Law

May 19: How to Observe the Sun

Lyn Smith

### BASINGSTOKE AS

Contact: Andria Harbinson email: [andria.harbinson@ntlworld.com](mailto: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\\_patton@talk21.com](mailto:andrew_patton@talk21.com)

### BATLEY & SPENDBOROUGH AS

Contact: I Newsome 01924443860 email: [bevia11@hotmail.com](mailto:bevia11@hotmail.com)

### BECKINGTON AS

Meets 7.30pm third Fridays of month (exc Jul, Aug & Dec) at Beckington Baptist Church Hall, Beckington, Frome, Somerset. BA11 6TD

Contact: John Ball Tel: 01373 830419 [www.basnet.org.uk](http://www.basnet.org.uk)

March 2008 meeting on 2nd Friday—the 14th.

### BEDFORD AS

Meets last Wednesday at 19:30, Bedford School, Burnaby Road, Bedford, MK40

2TU Contact: , 01234 211532 [society@bedsastro.org.uk](mailto:society@bedsastro.org.uk)

[www.bedsastro.org.uk](http://www.bedsastro.org.uk)

### BIRMINGHAM AS

Club night on Wednesday Evenings, 7.30pm, at Aston Uni. (Library, ATM, workshop, etc). Last Tuesday of month—lecture at 7.30pm, Room 146 Aston Uni.

[www.birmingham-astronomy.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-astronomy.co.uk)

### 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](mailto:info@blackpoolastronomy.org.uk)

[www.blackpoolastronomy.org.uk](http://www.blackpoolastronomy.org.uk)

### 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](http://www.boltonastro.org.uk) Secretary: Peter Miskiv.

### 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](http://www.bradfordastronomy.co.uk) or ring Hilary on 01274 6725710.

[tony@tony-west.freemove.co.uk](mailto: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.

Jan 21: Probing the Mysteries of Eta Carina

Dr Julian Pittard

Feb 4: Astronomy from Carl Zeiss

Tony Higgins

Feb 18: Colliding Galaxies

Dr R de Grijs

Mar 3: John Harrison's Clocks

Don Metcalfe

Mar 17: Basic Astrophotography for Dummies

Kevin Kilburn

Mar 31: Who was James Clerk Maxwell?

John Singleton

Apr 14: Images of the Universe—Vol 1

Paul Money

### BRANNEL ASTRONOMY

Meetings on first and third Fridays of each month at Brannel School, St Stephens, Cornwall. [www.brannelastronomy.com](http://www.brannelastronomy.com)

Contact: Frank Johns, 01637-878020 e-mail: [frank@laplage.demon.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.breckastro.supanet.com)

Contact: Rod Crockford. [rod\\_crockford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:john_wade@ntlworld.com)

[www.bhas.fsnet.co.uk/](http://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](http://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.bristolastro.org.uk](http://www.bristolastro.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](mailto:callintonastro@kimwatson99.fsnet.co.uk)

[www.callington-astro.org.uk](http://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](mailto:CAS@ilddat.demon.co.uk)

[www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org](http://www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org)

### CAROLIAN AS

Contact: Chris Ashman 01562 743758. Email: [carolianastro@btinternet.com](mailto:carolianastro@btinternet.com)

[www.carolianastro.org.uk](http://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](mailto:secretary@cpac.org.uk)

[www.cpac.org.uk](http://www.cpac.org.uk)

### CHIPPING NORTON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY GROUP

Contact: Robin Smitten 07900-858690.

Email: [robin@chippingnortontheatre.com](mailto:robin@chippingnortontheatre.com) [www.cnaag.com/](http://www.cnaag.com/)

### 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](mailto:paul@cleethorpesastronomy.co.uk). [www.cleethorpesastronomy.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:clydesdaleastro@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.clydesdaleastro.org.uk](http://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](mailto:robert.beeman@btinternet.com) or [info@CornwallAS.org.uk](mailto:info@CornwallAS.org.uk)

[www.CornwallAS.org.uk](http://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](http://www.cotswoldas.org.uk)

### COVENTRY & WARWICK AS

Contact Chris Longhorn. Tel: 01788-334756 email: [chrislonghorn@lycos.co.uk](mailto:chrislonghorn@lycos.co.uk)

[www.cawas.freemove.co.uk](http://www.cawas.freemove.co.uk)

### CRANBROOK & DISTRICT AS

Contact M Hannan secretary@epublish.co.uk

[www.cadsas.epublish.co.uk](http://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](mailto:cytron@btinternet.com) and/or [jimswift@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:Crewastra@aol.com)

### CROYDON AS

Meets second Fridays during term time at Royal Russell School, Coombe Lane at 19.45.

Contact Paul Harper email: [chairman07@croydonastro.org.uk](mailto:chairman07@croydonastro.org.uk)

[www.croydonastro.org.uk](http://www.croydonastro.org.uk)

**DERBY & DISTRICT AS**

Meets 1st Friday (exc July) at 7.30 at Friends Meeting House, St Helen's St, Derby  
 Contact: Dave Selfe email: david.selfe1@btopenworld.com  
 www.derbyastronomy.org

Jan 4: Contact with aliens—implications for society Martin Griffiths  
 Feb 1: Society Quiz  
 Mar 7: The Stuff of the Universe Dr Somak Raychaudhury  
 May 2: AGM

**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 Willington Memorial Hall, Church Street, Willington 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 Quertier. 01481 725760 quertiers@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.guildfordas.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: 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)

**HEART OF ENGLAND AS**

Meetings last Thursday of the month. Furnace End Meeting Site, The Old Exchange, Shustoke, Warwickshire  
 Contact: Geoffrey Mansfield email: Geoffrey.mansfield@ntworld.com  
 www.hoegas.co.uk

Jan 31 Members Talks—Andrew Morris, Keith Middleton, Geoff Mansfield

Feb 28 Hunting for Planets around other Stars Dr Peter Wheatley

Mar 27 Society Quiz Night

Apr 24 t.b.a. Dr Nick Hewitt

May 29 How to Build a Galaxy Prof Michael Merrifield

**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.  
 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@hotmail.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

**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

Feb 4: Explore Night Sky without a Telescope Dr Richard Beare

Mar 3: Search for Radio Emission from Exoplanets & Brown Dwarfs Sam George

Apr 7: Life in the Universe Prof Barry Jones

Apr 7: Life in the Universe Prof Barry Jones

**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

**LETCHEWORTH & 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)**

Meetings normally take place on the 2<sup>ND</sup> 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

**LUTON AS**

Meets last Friday of month at 7.30pm at Putteridge Bury Campus, University of Bedfordshire  
 Contact: Geoff Mitchell. Email: user998491@aol.com  
 www.lutonastrosoc.org.uk

**MACCLESFIELD AS**

Meets first Tuesday in month at 8.00pm (exc Jan) at Jodrell Bank Observatory and on third Tuesday of month (exc Oct & Jan) at Goostrey Village Hall.  
 Contact: Andrew Greenwood email: chairman@maccaastro.com  
 www.maccaastro.com

Jan 5: Richard Anthony Proctor Dr Allan Chapman

Feb 19: Super WASP—leaks & Exoplanets Dr Pierre Maxted

Mar 18: Women Astronomers Martin Lunn

Apr 15: Meteorites & the early Solar System Dr Jamie Gilmour

May 20: Radio Telescopes Prof Sir Francis Graham Smith

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#### MARCHES AG

Meets 2nd Fri in month at Spaceguard Centre, Knighton, Powys. LD7 1LW.  
Contact: Michael Birch 01597 850010 zakdorn@hotmail.com  
www.spaceguarduk.com/mag

#### 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, wolfscoot@dialstart.net www.freewebs.com/marrastro

#### MELTON & DISTRICT AS

Meets: Monthly at Village Hall, Main Street, Gaddesby, Leics. At 8.00pm  
Observational meetings as weather permits  
Contact: Tomy Pacey (Secretary) email: james.pacey@ntworld.com

#### 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/

#### 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.leggett@fsmail.net www.mkas.org.uk

12 & 26 Jan: Constellation of the Month Peter Parish

18 Jan: The Calendar

Dr Ann Bonell

14 Mar: Pluto and the Outer Solar System

Dr Mike Leggett

28 Mar: The Sun Kings

Dr Stuart Clark

9 May: Great Comets in History

Martin Lunn

#### MORAY AC, SIGMA

Meetings 1st Friday of every month starting at 7.30PM at Bernie Village Hall, Thomshill, Elgin, Moray. Observing Evenings every Friday and Saturday from mid Sep to May at our bothy on Easterton Airfield, Bernie, Elgin. For details contact Ian Brantingham on 01466 771371 or ian@branters.freemove.co.uk Sigma website:  
http://www.sigma-astro.co.uk

#### NEWBURY AS

Meets normally on the first Friday of each month (Sept-June) at 19.30hrs at United Reformed Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Newbury.

Contact: Richard Fleet email: rfleet@clara.co.uk  
www.newburyas.org.uk

Jan 4: Exploring the Structure of Planetary Nebulae

Dr Dick Hewitt

Feb 1: Search for Extrasolar Planets

Dr Christian Kaiser

Mar 7: The Solar Quiet Sun Zoo

Dr Danielle Bewsher

Apr 4: Aurora Borealis Nature's Lightshow

Dr James Wild

May 2: Observing the Sky in H Alpha

Prof Janet Drew

#### 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: japrockter@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

#### 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

#### 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

#### PAPHOS AS (CYPRUS)

Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at Tsada Golf Course, Paphos, with 2 over-night 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

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 Percival Guildhouse, St Matthews St, Rugby. CV21 3BY

Contact: Julian Leckie Tel: 01788-572152 email: julianleck@aol.com

WWW.rugbyastro.co.uk

#### ST NEOTS AS

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

Jan 7: Apollo

Andy Green

#### 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

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

Mar 29 Joint meeting with NWGAS at Cheethams Library, Manchester.

#### SOLENT AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

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

shill, 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

www.southampton-astronomical-society.org.uk

Jan 16: t.b.a.

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Feb 14: Eclipses and eclipse cycles  
Mar 13: t.b.a.

Alan Drummond  
David Whitehouse

#### 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, PE12 0XF 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

Jan 20: Astronomy at the end of the Rainbow Dr Sam Nolan  
Feb 17: Double Stars Gary Fildes  
Mar 16: Active Galaxies Graham Darke

#### 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: jewels on 07877-448117

Jan 9: t.b.a. Robin Venables  
Feb 6: 10-minute talks Dennis Young / Julia Johnson  
Mar 5: Moon Babies, Shuttles & Storms John Durston  
Apr 9: Space Suits Keith lane

#### THURROCK AS

Meetings are held first Wednesdays (except August) at 7.30 p.m. at The Methodist Hall, High Street, Hornon -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 ww.tivas.org.uk

#### TORBAY AS

Meetings held at 7.30pm 3rd Thursday in the month September to April at Torquay Boys Grammar School. 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: kjg494@googlemail.com www.astrosoc.org.uk

#### USK AS

Contact: jbprince9@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.wallsallastro.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@westcornwallastrosoc.org  
Website: www.westcornwallastrosoc.org

#### WEST OF LONDON AS

Meets second Monday of month (exc Aug) at: Christ Church Chapel, Redford Way, Uxbridge AND at St John's Ambulance Hall, North Harrow (odd months)  
Secretary: Duncan J Radbourne. 49 Wellington Road ,Hatch End,Pinner,Middlesex HA5 4NF. Email: duncan.radbourne@gmail.com  
Website: www.wolas.org.uk

#### WEST YORKSHIRE AS

Meets every Tuesday of month at 7.30pm at 'Rosse Observatory', Carlton Rd,Pontefract. Contact: Ken Willoughby 01977 795535.  
www.wyas.fsnet.co.uk Email: ken.willoughby@btinternet.com

#### WEYMOUTH AC

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

#### 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/

#### 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@wolvias.org.uk www.wolvias.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

Jan 4: A Physicians Guide to Stellar Evolution Dr John Lockett  
Jan 18: Viking Astronomy Martin Lunn  
Feb 1: The Large Hydron Collider at CERN Dr Pete Edwards  
Feb 15: Scorpius Paul Money  
Apr 4: Solar Opacity & Effect of Sun's Output Prof Greg Tallents  
Apr 18: Astronomical Alignments at Maltese Temples Martin Morgan-Taylor  
May 16: Lady Astronomers Dr Allan Chapman

#### Erratum: 2007/8 Astrocalendars

Some observant readers of the latest edition of the FAS Astrocalendar will have been a little confused when reading the General Notes on Page 9. There are several references to Liverpool AS and to information to be found on Page 32. As it happens this section is a copy of a similar section used in a publication of Liverpool AS, which did have a the information on its Page 32. Unfortunately, this mistake was not picked up during the proof reading.

Apologies to those who were confused and we would like to thank those who contacted us to point it out.

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#### Deadlines for submission for the next newsletter:

**Spring 2008 — 4 April 2008**

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.