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Issue 46

# FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

## FAS AUTUMN CONVENTION

**Saturday 5th October 1996**

**CAVENDISH LABORATORY**

**MADINGLEY ROAD, CAMBRIDGE**

- 9.30 Doors open
- 10.00 Opening by Pam Spence FAS President
- 10.15 Dr Francisco Diego. UCL. "Professional & Amateur Astronomy for the public: why & how"
- 11.15 TEA BREAK
- 11.45 Dr Gerry Gilmore, UK HST Facility Cambridge "ISO images of the inner Milky Way"
- 12.45 LUNCH
- 2.15 Dr Allan Chapman University of Oxford "The Cambridge Observatory & the discovery of Neptune, 1846"
- 3.15 TEA BREAK
- 3.45 4th Speaker TBA
- 4.45 Professor Sir Martin Rees, Cambridge "New light on Dark matter"
- 6.00 Close

Trips around RGO and MRAO as usual, starting 1.30pm

Buffet Lunch (includes morning coffee and afternoon tea) £5.00 **MUST** be pre-booked

Tickets : £4.50 in advance, £5.50 on door

Meal and Convention Tickets from Ray Ravenscroft, Glenville, Salters Lane, Lower Moor, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 2PQ

***SPONSORED BY ASTRONOMY NOW***

### EDITORIAL

Have you seen Hale-Bopp? If not why not?

It might seem a silly question but I am sure that most people who say "No" probably live in a location where lights are the problem. This morning Chris and I had a letter from Carl Brennan of Nottingham AS with a photocopy of the front page of the Nottingham Evening Post published last Saturday (Aug 3rd) which had blazoned across the front the headline

**"City to go boldly into next century"**

and an artists impression of a huge laser display which will involve projecting a monster hologram into the sky! I don't know if Nottingham has been implementing education and health cuts, but even if they haven't, I'm

sure that the £3 million pounds planned to be used could be better spent.

If YOU feel badly about these things why not save £1 out of your beer money and send four letters - one to your MP, one to your Town or County council, one to the Millennium Commission and one to Nottingham City council. Don't stress the Astronomy except maybe in terms of the destruction of the environment and our children's heritage but ask if the money could not be better used.. I certainly shall do so!

We also had a letter from Ray Emery of Leeds AS who asked that the FAS should run list of Society events to avoid the clash between society functions. Ray is worried about the clash with Cleveland and Darlington's Cosmos and Leeds's Astromet which are a

week apart. The problem is that we did try five years ago to do such a thing - I remember that Tony Ireland tried hard but few Societies bothered - I think that the problem is that the idea is brought up at a Committee meeting and the process is underway before anyone tells the FAS, BAA or SPA or bothers to ask. If you think that it would be a good idea to have such a list send me the information - in good time - please!

We are starting to look forward to the FAS meeting at Cambridge - it looks like another top class day out. I'll see you there.

*Ken Sheldon*

The Millennium address is

Ms Jennifer Page (Chief Executive)

The Millennium Commission,

2 Little Smith Street, LONDON, SW1P 3DH

## CARDIFF AS

1995/96 has been a busy and varied year for Cardiff Astronomical Society. It began with 20th anniversary celebrations and presentations to 2 of the founder members, Dave Powell and Bob Owens. It continued with a full lecture programme with something for everyone, and membership at a record high of almost 140. During the year the Society participated in Science Week with an exhibition and lectures at the Techniquist science centre, attended a science teachers conference and provided 3 speakers for the 41st British Star Trek Convention at the Cardiff International Arena. The summer trip was to Powys Observatory. Next year's programme is completed with a full range of activities, and includes something for everyday of National Astronomy Week. Meet alt. Thursdays in the Astronomy & Physics Buildings in Newport Rd. For more information contact the Secretary, Dave Powell, telephone 01222-551704 or visit our Internet site at <http://users.aol.com/astrocas/astro.html>

Theresa Cooper

## CAMBRIDGE AA and CAMBRIDGE YOUNG ASTRONOMERS

Work towards the completion of the second dome at the CAA's observatory is going well. This, together with a Portakabin which has been donated to the CAA, will provide superb facilities for observing, talks, and a workshop for telescope making and maintenance. There is to be a "Grand Opening" on October 11th, by Donald Mackay who produced the first radio telescopes for Sir Martin Ryle.

Events have been organised to mark National Astronomy Week, the 150th anniversary of the discovery of Neptune, and the solar eclipse in 1999. The CAA has become one of the many societies who now have a web page - it can be found at

<http://www.mrc-dunn.cam.ac.uk/caa/caahome.html>

Report from Ken Day

For membership details, contact Membership Secretary, David Herbert, 67 Howard Close, Cambridge, CB5 8QU

**CORNWALL AS** CAS meet in a very select rendezvous in Helston. Members enjoyed themselves on a visit to Goonhilly as well as observing THE comet. The NAW programme looks good - I know that Mick spent a lot of time chasing speakers but Cornwall is a long way away for most lecturers. If you are in the area then you must contact Mick Harvey on 01326 377294 for more details.

**COTSWOLD AS** A group from Cotswold AS and others societies went to a lecture organised by the Retirement Group at Painswick Town Hall. The speaker was Dr Chris Burrows, the Lead Instrument Scientist at the Space Telescope Institute in Baltimore. A great lecture and some entertaining and deep questions - not from the assembled astronomers who had been asked to make sure that there was a question session but by the pensioners! But he was only on a flying visit, so do not ask where he can be found! Plans are in place for NAW. Sept 12th Meet at Mount Tuffley, Dec 14th Midlands Space Flight Society. Meetings are held at 8pm at Church House, Grafton Road, Cheltenham on the second Saturday of the month. Contact Irene Hatton on 01242 673923

**CROYDON AS** have new secretary in John Murrell, 17 Dalmeny Road, SHALTON, Surrey, SM5 4PW or on 0181 647 5490

**AS OF EDINBURGH** meet at the Observatory Calton Hill on the first Friday of the month. They have a new secretary. He is Graham Rule Tel: 0131 6670647 or e-mail [Graham.Rule@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Graham.Rule@ed.ac.uk)

**LA SOCIÉTÉ GUERNESIAISE ASTRONOMY SECTION** Contact Geoff Falla the Hon. Secretary on Guernsey 724101 for more details of the programme.

**HAMPSHIRE AG** Busy as usual with lots of good stuff and viewing sessions. New members have been invited to join a training course so that they can become safe and competent observers and use the keys to the observatory. Good idea. The person to contact for details of the programme is Roy Dodd on 01705 646875

**AS of HARINGEY** Exhibition at the Palace during weekend 21st 22nd Sept for NAW. The September meeting (18th) is Jonathan Shanklin on *Antarctica* and on 16th Oct there is an AGM and Members meeting. November sees *The Sun* by Mike Culley and Christmas the Christmas Meet and quiz (with or against) Loughton AS. Contact Jerry Workman on 0171 607 7751 for more details of the programme.

**HEBDEN BRIDGE L & SS(Astro Sec)** meet at the Information Centre on the last Wednesday of the month.

Phone Mr P.G.H.Jackson on 01274 562478 for further information about the Society.

**HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT AS** The society meets at 4A Railway street on Friday nights 7.30pm - 9.30pm. It is worth noting that the Yorkshire Rep to the FAS (Paul Harper) is a member i.e. the Treasurer which is why we hear of HAPS success or otherwise with grants. For further information on the programme talk to Philip Heppenstal 01484 661497

**IRISH AS** Stephen Ryan at PO Box 2547, Dublin 11. and Stephen's telephone number from the UK is 00 3531 864 1382 for information on meetings and publications.

**LEEDS AS** Meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Century House, North St starting at 7.00pm. Astromet figures large on their programme but there are other exciting events. Contact Ray Emery on 0113 282 7350

**LEICESTER AS** We have seen quite a few new members recently - long may it continue. There have been a number of interesting, but poorly attended, trips including Greenwich, Green's Mill (Nottingham) and Woolsthorpe Manor. A National Space Centre is proposed in Leicester. A Neptune evening is planned for NAW and a public observing session for the solar eclipse in October, clouds permitting. Autumn programme includes:- Oct 8th *Dwarf Novae* - Gary Poyner, Oct 22nd *One Foot in the Algarve* - Rob Hayes. 12th November *Building an Observatory* - David Swaby, Nov 26th *Visual Astronomy* Chris Lythall. Further details from Ann Bonell, Tel: 0116 2394481

**LETCHEWORTH & District AS** A declination drive and piggy back camera mount have been added to the 10" telescope. Star parties have been held (and hindered by cloud) and Hale-Bopp has been seen. Eric Hutton on 01462 626032 for further details of meetings

**LIVERPOOL AS** Contact Ken Clark at 31

Sandymount Drive, Wallasey, L45 0LJ with SAE or on 0151 638 3270 for more details of the LAS programme. Alternatively try the Web: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/~ggastro.home.html>  
Events during NAW on <http://www.liv.ac.uk/~ggastro/NAW.html>  
**LOWESTOFT AND YARMOUTH REGIONAL ASTRONOMERS** a new committee but I don't have any address other than that of the Treasurer Brian Philpott - you will find Brian at Glebe House, 25 Garden Lane, Worthingham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7SB.  
**MANCHESTER AS** For details of our programme later this year refer to our Home Page at <http://www.u-net.com/ph/mas>.

**MANSFIELD AND SUTTON AS** At the beginning of August '96 Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society supported the local 'Ashfield Festival' at Sherwood Observatory.

The Observatory was open on Sunday 4th August, then Monday 5th - Friday 9th August inc. MSAS has a full programme for NAW, when the Chairman, Malcolm Roebuck, will be promoting our campaign for Dark Skies each evening throughout this event.

NAW proceedings start at Sherwood Observatory on Saturday 21st September with a brief talk by G. Shepherd on *Lunar Eclipses*. 22nd: *Mercury Venus and Mars* by N. Crofts. 23rd: *Comets* by D.F. Collins. 24th is the MSAS lecture meeting - admission by ticket only (available from Sherwood Obs.), which is a talk by Dr. P. R. Blake of Nottm University about "High Energy Gamma-Ray Astronomy". 25th: *Stars and Galaxies*, C. Collins. 26th: *Saturn* - D.F. Collins. Another MSAS lecture meeting - admission by ticket only (available from Sherwood Observatory) for a talk by Paul Money on *Neptune and the Outer Solar System*. This programme of topical lectures will also include observing sessions, using the Society's 24-inch reflecting telescope.

MSAS are hosting an evening class with the Adult Education Dept. of Nottm University. It is a nine-week course commencing 7.30 p.m. on Mondays starting 30th September. Observing session are held at Sherwood Observatory each Tuesday evening, between lecture and committee meetings. Speakers 29th October Dr. P. Sherry of Nottingham Univ "Magnetic Fields in the Universe". 26th November Michael Gainsford of Hinckley and District AS on "The Leviathan of Parsonstown".

Contact Graham Shepherd on 01623 552276 for more details. Report by Graham Shepherd

**MID KENT AS** This October will be the 20th Anniversary of the society. Plans are being made for Hale-Bopp and NAW. MKAS meets on the second and last Fridays of each month in Hut 92, Horsted College, Chatham at 7.45 pm. Contact Amanda Peters, 133 Carnation Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME22 7F or ring her on 01634 724875 Amanda Peters

**NORTH EAST LONDON AS** A full Autumn starting on Sept 15th Roger O'Brien "Weather on other Planets" Oct 20th Bob Forrest "CCD Cameras" November 17th Dr Bernard Carr "Gravitational Lensing" Dec 15th Jerry Workman "Latest from HST" Meetings held on the third Sunday of each month at Wanstead House. Programme Secretary Andrew Lawrence on 01376 510329

# REPORT ON IUA General Assembly in Lucerne.

## 1996 JUNE 16TH TO 22ND

Ken and I attended the IUA General Assembly. We were welcomed by Andreas, the Astronomische Gesellschaft Luzern (Astronomical Society of Lucerne), the Société Astronomique Suisse (Swiss Astronomical Society) and the IUA. We met amateur astronomers from Switzerland, Australia, Poland, France, Italy, Germany, Slovakia, Israel, Malta, Brazil and Japan and made friends with most of them.

Throughout the week we had talks from these representatives about work in astronomy in their countries and from professionals.

On Wednesday evening we went to the Hubelmat Observatory in Lucerne (Lucerne AS). This is in the top floor of an Adult Education College. No one can get at it to damage it and the view is wonderful. They have a very accurate spectroheliograph (they show it to children who visit), an 11" Schmidt Cassegrain Celestron, a 40cm reflector with a Naysmith focus designed and built by Andreas and a historic telescope built by Gustave Heyde in Dresden in 1913-4 - a 3" refractor and driven by falling weight. On Thursday we went to the Planetarium and the Cosmorama at the Swiss Transportation and Communication Museum. On Friday at the IUA General Assembly and Election of Officers John Perdrix (Australia) was elected President, Ken was elected General Secretary and I was elected Editor as we are natural English speakers. This was followed by the European section elections.

The Assembly then was closed until 1999.

### NEXT IUA MEETING 1999

August 9th to 14th. Hubanova, Slovakia

This date and venue have been chosen because the venue is very near the central line of the total eclipse of the Sun.

## MY PRESENTATION

I started with basic information about the National organisations. BAA, SPA, Webb Society, The Astronomer and the FAS

I showed slides and talked about general society activities, meetings, observing sessions, societies working with children, public meetings, members of the public visiting observatories, society conventions and society outings. Slides and other material were provided by Liverpool, Salford, Newbury, Worcester, SEKAS and Sawtry.

WYAS sent a sequence of building their observatory (which made the delegate from Malta ask for plans for an observatory) Worthing sent a slide showing the observatory taken in the dark looking like a "transparent dome". Salford showed the telescope through the slot and Aylesbury showed the observatory on the hill-top. Swansea sent the observatory on the Gower. New and impressive was Swansea Observatory on the sea-front while an old and interesting one was the Norman Lockyer Observatory. Both are open to the public. Many thanks to the FAS for £300 towards my expenses and to Salford and Norwich for gifts of £10 each.

Chris Sheldon.

## BOOK REVIEW SUN, EARTH AND SKY

by Kenneth R. Lang. Published February 1995  
by Springer-Verlag ISBN 3-540-58778-0

*Good Day, Sunshine* - the title of the first chapter positively invites the reader to find out what follows. We are brought back to the importance of the Sun in our perception of the enjoyment of life by the inclusion of poems and

reproductions of paintings, some classical and some modern, while emphasising that without the Sun the world would be a very different sort of place. The book is beautifully illustrated with coloured images from spacecraft at many wavelengths as well as diagrams and graphs and photographs in black and white. The early workers are not forgotten either - which I consider important. The text is easy to read though the subject matter is dealt with in depth. The energy source is explained, and the production of neutrinos (I enjoyed the poem). Sound waves and the oscillation of the sun tell us more about its internal structure. The sun is a magnetic star is discussed and this chapter of great interest to a Solar observer (me!) trying to fathom what sun spots are and why they behave as they do. Not only are they at the 'surface' of the sun, but they exert an influence far away from their origin. The book is up to date, for the results from Ulysses polar passes measuring solar wind speeds are explained. Radiation from flares, prominences and coronal mass ejections and the effect of the solar wind on our Earth give food for thought. The last chapters deal with all the aspects of Sun/Earth which we worry about - records of Sun's variability in the past and will the greenhouse effect be important? How much longer can Earth sustain life?

A thoroughly researched subject dealt with in a novel way, I think that it is a beautiful book for anyone interested in how the sun ticks.  
Christine Sheldon.

It looks good on the table with an 8-inch diam image in colour of the Sun from the Yohkoh Mission.

Ken

## AN UNUSUAL EVENT (so worth printing)

### A Compliment from Marcus Armitage of Huddersfield A & P.S.

The Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS) is really the parent organisation of most of the astronomical societies in the country. OK, the BAA has been around a lot longer, and I'd guess more societies are affiliated to the BAA than to the FAS. But essentially the 'British Astronomical Association' caters for the interest of the individual.

The FAS on the other hand, is the umbrella organisation which caters specifically for the needs and interests of societies like ours. All HAPS members should receive the quarterly edition of the FAS Newsletter, either along with Omega or collecting it at Friday meetings. Within the Newsletter they will find snippets of information about the activities of Astronomical Societies around the country. Yes the FAS is our guiding light.

## SOCIETY NEWS ROUNDUP

I am quite happy to receive Society news as an E-mail message - it saves me re-typing and the associated typos. Up to 3 column inches, about 100-150 words is fine! No more please! MSAS report is 269 words (edited) and occupies a lot of a column inches. For those Societies with Home Pages, I promised to give a listing this issue - well there an awful lot of them and every time I look I find another one or two. Since Demon have just given users a Home Page I have a feeling that the next three months might see another boost!

**AYLESBURY AS** For information on AAS's activities contact Peter Biswell on 01296 85125 for programme.

**BEDFORD AS** BAS's 10th anniversary, so congratulations. Contact Peter Cox on 01234 354552 for Society info and an up-to-date programme of events or look on internet for <http://www.powernet.co.uk/html/bas/basevent.html>

**BOSTON ASTRONOMERS** For more details of the Society, or to book Paul for a talk please contact 01507 524037 or write to Lorraine Kendall/Paul Money, 18 College Park, Horncastle, Lincs, LN9 6RE. Lorraine

**BRADFORD AS** Regular meetings on Monday 7.30pm. The new sessions programme has Oct 17th Melvin Taylor *Observing Variables*, Oct. 21st Prof. Lionel Wilson. *What's new in the Jupiter System*. Contact David C. 01274 638038, John Bardsley on 01274 61710 or Hilary on 01274 672570.

**BRIDGEND AS** Meetings are held on alternate Fridays in Bridgend Bowls Centre. The regular lecture meetings start in September and the Nov. 1st one is by Chris Sheldon *The Electromagnetic Spectrum*. Lots of other to come. Contact Clive Down on 01623 740754 for details of meetings which take place on alternate Fridays.

**BRISTOL AS** meet at the Physics Dept Lecture Room G44, Tyndall Ave. 7.15pm. The Autumn programme covers a wide spread of topics. Oct 25th Dr Rodney Hillier. *Black holes at the centre of galaxies*. Nov 11th Ian Gr. *Wide Field Astrophotography*. Nov 22nd Jack Wickens *Norman Lockyer Observatory*. Dec 6th Lee McDonald *Low Tech Astronomy*. Cl. Nights Oct 18, Nov 1, 15, 29 Dec 13. Westbury park Methodist Church Hall. Phone Ron Sparrow 0117 9620820

of the **ASTRONOMY SECTION** of the **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE** **NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY** is the premier astronomical society in the county, and was the first society to be affiliated to the FAS. The NNHS was founded in 1876, and has fourteen sections dedicated to all aspects of natural history and associated subjects. The Astronomy Section has a lively mix of experienced observers and armchair enthusiasts, and expertise is at hand in a variety of areas, including deep sky and Mars (Nick Hewitt, BAA Deep Sky Section Director), instruments and the history of astronomy (Bob Marriott, BAA Curator of Instruments), photography and CCD imaging (Bob Neville, BAA Instruments and Imaging Section Director), comets and meteors (Steve Evans), variable stars and CCDs (Karen Holland), planetary observation (Dusko Novakovic), education (Frank Gear) and publicity (Peter Hudson, BAA Sales Coordinator). Meetings are held on the second and last Monday of each month at the Humfrey Rooms, Castilian Terrace, in the centre of Northampton. These premises are owned by the NNHS, which in recent years has hosted a variety of astronomy meetings, including those of the BAA Deep Sky, Instruments and Imaging, Meteor and Variable Star Sections, as well as The Astronomer organisation. For further details contact Bob Marriott (Secretary), 01604 765190.

**NORTANTS AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS** Mervyn Lloyd is the contact and Events Sec. on 01536 521581.

**NOTTINGHAM AS** As mentioned in the Editorial NAS are very worried about the Millennium project put forward by the City's Conservation Adviser(!) However the meetings at Djanogly City Tech College continue. Forthcoming dates are:- Oct 3rd 49th AGM, Nov 7th Comets. Dr S.V.N. Clube Dec 5th US Astronomy Information to present Part 2. Contact Carl Brennan on: 0115 938 4521 for details of programme.

**ORWELL AS** Historic observatories have the disadvantage that something always needs painting or repairing, but the members have also been actively observing Hale-Bopp with someone on duty every Tuesday to Friday. They have also had a sortie into radio astronomy. Open every evening for NAW. Contact Peter Richards on 01473 644828 for details of society activities. The Web page is: <http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk:80/~jpswich/>

**PAPWORTH ASTRONOMY CLUB** Contact Keith Tritton on 01223 374867 (daytime) or 01767 677219 (evenings) or Doreen Perrins 01480 830341 ext 2237 (daytime) for more details.

**P.O.N.L.A.F.** The only really central London FAS Society operates during term time on the last Friday of the month at 1830 until 2130 in Room 5 on the 6th floor of the Tower Block of University of North London, Holloway Road. The person to contact is Elizabeth Turner on 0171 609 8884 They produce the most useful monthly newsletter which covers all the London Socs. Their next two speakers are Sept 27 Mike Maunder *Chasing Eclipses* and in October John Barton with *Instrumentation & the Dark Matter Problem*.

**SOUTH EAST KENT AS** A very active society and good with the public. I hope that the public observing session on August 13th at Lympe was a success - it is not every society who can hold such a meeting at the place where H.G.Wells wrote "The First Men in the Moon" on the 50th anniversary of his death. Their array of members' telescopes provide a good chance for many people to get a view through them. Always things up their sleeves so worth paying them a visit if you are on your way to or from the Continent. For more information you must contact Andrew McCarthy at 25 St Pauls Way, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3NT or on 01303 241933

**STRATFORD upon AVON AS** held a successful Convention in June and have continued to enjoy a programme of interesting speakers (their Treasurer doubles as Events Organiser and tempts all sorts of speakers from great distances - they must all be Shakespeare fans!) Contact John Harrison on 01789 268775

**SALFORD AS** During NAW, from 21st- 27th Sept inclusive, the observatory will be open to the public each evening from 7.30pm. Observing when the clear priority targets will be Neptune and Hale-Bopp. Main event - Saturday Sept 28th when Dr Allan Chapman will lecture on "The Discovery of Neptune" in the "Ben Kingsley" theatre, Pendleton College, Dragonfield Road, Salford at approx. 7.45pm with the Mayor and Mayoress of Salford attending from 7.30pm. Display of telescopes-Refreshments. Admission 50p payable on entry. Doors open 7.00pm. Afterwards at the observatory.

Members have been monitoring Comet Hale-Bopp, visually, photographically and CCD, Approx mag 7, 15 arcmins in diameter, DC1. At this stage, from being a faint apparition on the limit of binocular vision, the comet's position has progressively improved. All societies observations are sent to the national clearing houses.

Dr Chapman's Christmas Lecture to the society, "Sun-Spots and Sun-Men; Solar Studies from Galileo to Lockyer" takes place at Hope High School, Eccles Old Road, Salford on Wednesday December 18th 7.00pm free of charge. Other society members welcome to all events. Kath Redford 0161 7943179

**SAWTRY & DISTRICT AS** are starting a young Astronomers group running at the same time as the main meeting on the last Friday of each month. The first issue of the new Society Newsletter hit the streets in August. For meetings details contact Brooke Norton on 01487 831683

**SHROPSHIRE AS** have planned an Autumn/Winter programme with a practical bias. Hale-Bopp and the Solar eclipse of October figure largely in this. If you are interested contact the Chairman David Woodward on 01743 872991 or look at <http://www.astro.cf.ac.uk/sas/sasmain.html>

**WEST OF LONDON AS** Contact Maggie Daly on 01895 637400 for details of the Autumn programme

**WEST YORKS AS** Let's hope that the repairs to the observatory were completed before the rain arrived! A visit by teachers from Carlton High School was a good idea. As usual Contact

Pete Lunn on 01924 360064 for programme of meetings and to ask about the Rosse Observatory or look on the Internet at <http://staff.ndl.co.uk/terry/wyas>

**VECTIS AS** Vectis members enjoyed a trip to visit HAG followed by a visit to Douglas Arnold. Perhaps other societies should visit one another. We always enjoy such visits. On July 14th Crayford Manor visited Vectis - a bit later than intended through missing the ferry. They went to see Kevin's observatory in Ryde, John's at Winford, Ken's at Wroxhall and George and Joan Shave at Lake. They enjoyed the day thoroughly including the food and drink. All is in hand for NAW.

For more news of events contact John Smith on 01983 865451 or write to him at 27 Forest Road, Winford, Sandown, I.O.W. PO36 0JY

**WOLVERHAMPTON AS** Although retiring in Oct. Malcolm Astley is still the contact for the Autumn programme. Try 01902 783212

**WORCESTER AS** recently went on a trip to the Powys County Observatory near Knighton. It well worth a visit with a telescope in a closed dome, a planetarium, a camera obscura, a weather station and a seismology station. It was set up as an educational establishment. Well worth a visit. The society continues to have a good programme of speakers. Members will be having public sessions for observing, lectures, exhibition in Kempsey during NAW.

Phone Ian Gray on 01386 47352

**WORTHING AS** Contact Nick Quinn on or at [nick@nquinn.demon.co.uk](mailto:nick@nquinn.demon.co.uk) for full details of the programme.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT I CAN ONLY CARRY MATERIAL RELATING TO FAS SOCIETIES.**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**ASH** have an NAW weekend at Alexandra Palace on September 21/22nd Contact Jerry Workman on 0171 607 7751 for details.

**NAAS** There will be a convention on 28th September for NAW called *DISCOVER YOUR UNIVERSE*. Contact Mervyn Lloyd on 01536 521581

**FAS AUTUMN CONVENTION**

5th October, Cavendish Labs, Cambridge.

12th October **BRISTOL AS** Biennial CONVENTION Ring 0117 962 0820

**YORKSHIRE ASTROMIND** will be at Brough in October. Ring Debbie Murphy on 01482 871545 for more details.

**LEEDS ASTROMET '96** 16th November Try 0113 282 7350 for more.

**COSMOS NORTHEAST** 20th November 1997 Ring 01332 702608 (Neil) for more

**April 19th FAS AGM at NOTTINGHAM AS ANNIVERSARY MEETING**

June 7th WORCESTER AS SUMMER CONVENTION.

**THE FAS ASTROCALENDAR WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CAMBRIDGE ON 5th October**

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