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FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

ISSUE 54

1998 FAS/Cambridge Convention Saturday 3rd October 1998

Speakers Include:

Nial Tanvir, (IOA), "The cosmological distance scale and the age of the universe";**Steve Bell**, (HM Nautical Almanac Office, RGO), "UK Eclipse August 1999";**Duncan Copp**, "The work of Vulcan in the Solar System";**Neil Bone**, (BAA Meteor Section Director), "The Leonids"**Paul Murdin** (PPARC), "The Cosmic History of Water";

See page 7 for further details

Editorial

The first newsletter is always the hardest (or so it appears when you preparing it) and this has been no exception. It may be the anxiety not to do the societies an injustice or the knowledge that your mistakes will be published round the country. At least with WASNews, my local society newsletter, mistakes travel slower!

In order to slow the descent into the fire and not give too much scope for major blunders I shall be attempting to improve the layout and content gradually. One such improvement I would like to make is the inclusion of more articles from individual society newsletters. After receiving numerous newsletters since becoming FAS Newsletter editor, only a couple of months ago, I was amazed at the quantity and quality of the articles. You can certainly learn a lot from reading them, and I'm sure they would be well received by everyone, possibly even rekindling someone's interest in a specific area of astronomy. You could perhaps find a pen-pal for your favourite subject.



There is a lot of interesting work being done across the whole of the British amateur astronomy community and this needs communicating to the grass roots members in a way which stimulates the mind. A side effect, which hasn't gone unnoticed, may be the increase of the readership of this newsletter. So if you've been meaning to write an item for your own societies newsletter then don't delay, it could go national if you so wish.

On to more mundane matters. The 'Society News Roundup' page is currently at the mercy of the editor whereas it should be driven by the individual societies as it is you who know what is important for your society for the last and next few months. Short snippets would be gratefully received, leaving me more time to read the articles in each of your newsletters!

Being in the computer industry and being called "Gadget-Man" by a non-astronomy society I belong to, it comes as no surprise to some of you that I am able to receive copy for the newsletter in many forms. On paper, E-mail, floppy disk (most packages supported), and pictures in the form of photos or slides. I'll return them immediately they have been scanned. Pictures say a thousand words, and unfortunately the one on this page says it all!

With less than a year to go until the 1999 Total Solar Eclipse, would-be photographers of the event should be planning what they are going to do now!

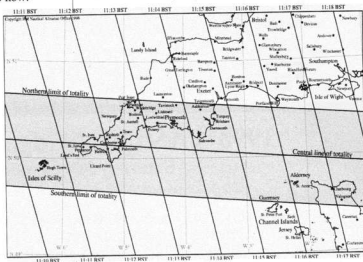
There are several areas that need to be considered. As seen from the U.K. and France, the eclipsed Sun will be at an elevation of around 45 degrees: how stable is your tripod when the head is tilted at this angle? Can you look through the viewfinder easily, or do you need to get a right-angle viewer? Consider keeping the tripod at its lowest position: it will be more stable and less prone to vibration either from wind or shutter slap. Sandbags attached to the legs will greatly improve the stability of the tripod. Is it easy to make fine pointing adjustments with your tripod's controls, or are you going to end up with the Sun on the edge of the frame, or worse still, chasing it around the sky as the two minutes of totality slips by?

What camera lens(es) are you intending to use? Does it actually focus at infinity where it is marked? As you remove the Solar filter just before second contact, are you likely to change the focus? Perhaps you need a piece of tape to hold the lens in focus. The full Moon makes a good test subject. Try a correctly exposed photograph to see how big the Moon (and therefore the Sun) is on the print or slide. For photographs of the outer corona a medium focal length lens (200 - 500mm) is fine. If you want to capture prominences and the chromosphere, then something like a 1000mm focal length lens will be required. Try an over-exposed photograph of the Moon: are there any internal reflections in the lens? While a good record of an eclipse may be obtained with virtually any lens and exposure, any defects in the lens will be revealed, and it is worth being aware of potential problems now! Zoom lenses in particular are prone to internal reflections, and you may want to consider getting hold of a fixed telephoto lens. A second-hand manual focus lens can be bought at quite a reasonable price.

Practice taking photographs in the dark, altering exposure times without looking at the camera: it may be too dark to read your cameras dial during totality, and anyway, you want to spend time looking at the Sun rather than your camera controls!

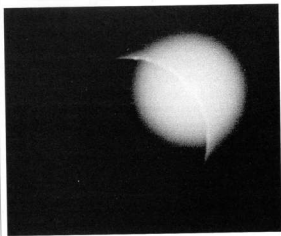
With a telephoto lens you will get quite a good view of the Sun through your camera's viewfinder. You should be totally familiar with your camera. Don't use a new, untested camera. A simple manual camera is probably better than the latest all-singing all-dancing automatic, autofocus model.

The secret to success is planning and practice. Plan the sequence of photographs that you are going to take, check that it takes no longer than the time you want to spend on



photographs, (probably about a minute, leaving you with another minute for just looking either with your naked-eye, or with binoculars). Have several practice runs so that it becomes automatic and you don't need to think too much, about what you are doing. A tape recorder may be found to be useful to playback the key actions.

If all goes well, then next August you will have a fine record of one of nature's most spectacular events.



Nick Quinn

Visits to the FAS Web site have been boosted recently by the pages being featured in the *Demon Dispatches* magazine (sent out free to all *Demon's* customers). My thanks to Theresa Cooper for this publicity.

I hope that the Web site will enable newcomers to Astronomy to quickly find their local society and make contact with you. I need your help to ensure that the information about your society remains up to date regarding meeting place, e-mail contact and WWW page address. The Web works by linking sites together, please link your site to the FAS one. There are still a few references to the old 'UKIndex' site, but I am slowly getting them updated. Interest in Astronomy is certain to be boosted by the Total Solar Eclipse next August, so make it easy for potential members to contact your society.

I have added a page for the Eclipse, basically as a pointer to other eclipse pages. If your society sets up an eclipse page, please let me know. Likewise, if you come across a really good eclipse page that I haven't listed then let me know.

The 'diary of events', designed to help avoid clashes of meetings, will only work if it is complete: please help me!

Our Chairman has suggested that we might try and make up a list of Astronomy (and related) computer software that is 'Year 2000 compliant'. If you have tried running any software with your machine date set to 2000 or thereafter, then please let us know the results. It would be particularly useful to test some of the smaller shareware & freeware utilities & programs.

Nick Quinn, nick@nquinn.demon.co.uk

Fort Victoria Planetarium

Dave 'Doc' Sutton, the FAS Treasurer, recently accompanied a number of Worthing members to see the Vectis Society and their observatories. During the day Dave visited the Fort Victoria Planetarium which he enjoyed very much. Situated on the Isle of Wight near Yarmouth the centre provides programmes for schools, clubs and other groups. An exhibition Centre and Bookshop complete the site.

"The planetarium, exhibition and astronomy gift shop are built in the gun arches of an old Victorian fort; on the same site is a marine aquarium, maritime heritage exhibition and the largest computer controlled model railway in the UK. The fort is set in a 50 hectare country park on the beautiful Solent coast looking towards Hurst Castle and the New Forest."

For further details contact: Fort Victoria Planetarium, Fort Victoria Country Park, Westhill Lane, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight PO41 0RR. Tel: (01983) 761555.
paule@astrofvp.demon.co.uk
Webb Site: www.astrofvp.demon.co.uk

America's Mother's Day on May 10, caused their Consumer Affairs Commissioner, Jules Polonetsky, to issue a 'Violation for Deceptive Advertising' against the Illinois based star-naming company the International Star Registry.

"Paying to name stars after loved ones is simply throwing money into a black hole," said Polonetsky. He added that companies that offer to 'officially' name a star fail to tell consumers that they don't have the authority to do it. The International Astronomical Union is the only recognised star-naming organisation, and it does not sell names.

The naming a star scam has also hit the UK with even the ex-Prime Minister John Major supposedly suggesting that a star should be named after the Princess of Wales.

Every week, Astronomy Now receives calls from people wishing to name a star after their loved one. "It is very difficult to explain to someone whose husband is dying of cancer or who has just lost a child that paying for naming a star is a meaningless exercise," explains Pam Spence, editor of Astronomy Now. "I am really glad that the International Star Registry has had this violation issued against them."

Robin Catchpole from the RGO, Cambridge, also receives telephone calls from people wishing to name a star. "I am delighted to hear these people are being prosecuted," he said. "Despite what they like to say, people are not naming a star in the same frame of mind that they send flowers to their girlfriends; they sell them to many people in tragic circumstances who take the scheme very seriously."

SAGAS 25th Anniversary

The 18th July saw in the 25th anniversary of SAGAS with a very strong line-up of speakers which included: Douglas Arnold, Dr Patrick Moore, Dr John Mason, Mark Armstrong, Dr Allan Chapman and Professor Halton Arp.

The event had been a sell-out several months prior to the day and was a great success from the very outset. Local societies from the southern region providing stands showing their work alongside a number of commercial stands. Each talk was very interesting and, in Professor Halton Arp's case, controversial due to his belief that contrary to popular accepted theory, Red Shift is not a true indicator of an object's distance, and he showed some evidence to support it!

Dr Patrick Moore's talk was not on a predefined subject but rather he took questions from the floor, not all of an astronomical nature. This became a most entertaining period giving an insight into his life and the people he has met. A piano duet with Albert Einstein for instance.

ASTRA: Association in Scotland to Research Astronautics

Contact Mr George McCue, 96, Bloomfield Road, Airdrie, Lanarkshire, ML6 9LX Tel: 01236 750903.

Meets Friday evenings at Airdrie Observatory and monthly in Glasgow.

<http://easyweb.easynet.co.uk/~portwin/Pages/ASTRA/General/ASTRA.html>

AYLESBURY

Recent talks included Alan Chapman speaking on "John Flamsteed and the founder of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich" - Aug/98

The society are preparing an application to the Millennium Fund for a grant to improve the overall facilities of the group. This may include new computing facilities, new buildings, telescopes or funds to enable different areas of astronomy to be opened up, e.g. radio astronomy.

Contact: Peter Biswell on 01296 485125

Sept 7th - "CCD's" - Les Clark

BEDFORD Peter Cox 01234 354552

<http://www.powernet.co.uk/bas/bashome.html>

BIRMINGHAM Dane Carty 0121 353 6577

BOSTON AS Details of the 98/99 lecture programme are available from Mrs Lorraine Money, 18 College Park, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. LN9 6RE. 01507-524037 (ansaphone), or e-mail Lorraine@astspace.demon.co.uk or Paul@astspace.demon.co.uk.

BRADFORD A.S.

In the first six months of this year members of Bradford A.S. have heard some excellent talks by Prof Alan Smith, Prof John Brown (Astronomer Royal for Scotland), and Prof Lionel Wilson. All the talks have been well attended. In April Patrick Moore visited our local theatre, almost all the members went to see Patrick and everybody enjoyed themselves, and we also attended West Yorkshire's convention in June.

Looking forward to the next six months, an old friend of the society, Paul Money will visit us on the 24th August and will talk about the latest news from Mars. On 5th October, Dr John Mason will talk about the Leonid Meteors. Our second special guest speaker for this year will be on 2nd November, Prof Antony Hewish who will be talking about Mapping the Primordial Universe, and to end the year Prof Brown will be coming back to give the society's Christmas Lecture on the 14th December.

I would like to mention Harry Everett, who was a member of the society for twenty five years and a founder member of the society who died suddenly this year, his contribution to the society will be missed by everybody at Bradford A.S.

Contact:

David Cooper, 36 Pollard Lane, Undercliffe, Bradford.BD2 4RN.

Bradford has now got it's own web site.

<http://www.andybat.demon.co.uk/bas/index.htm>

E-mail: has@andybat.demon.co.uk

BRIDGEND

Meets on alternate Fridays between Sept & June.

25th Sept "Astronomy And The Ancients" - Bob Mizon

9th Oct "Martian Meteorites" - Dr Bob Owens.

23rd Oct "The rise and fall of the Soviet Space Program"

- Dr Alan Rees

6th Nov "Sounds like Meteors" - Dave Powell

20th Nov "Cosmic Background Radiation"

- Dr Susan Morrison

Clive Down 01656 740754

E-mail clivedown@btintnet.com

<http://members.aol.com.BridgendAS/>

CAMBRIDGE AA and YOUNG ASTRONOMERS

Stanley Stafford (01223) 880624

<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/caa/caahome.html>

CASTLE POINT Andy Turner 01702 258640

CHESTERFIELD- Robert McGregor, 34 Higher Albert Street, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 7QE

CORNWALL A.S. Mr. J.M. Harvey 1 Tregunna Close, Porthleven, Cornwall TR13-9LW Tel: 01326-562386

CRAWLEY A.S Ron Garner, 1 Pevensey Close, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 7BL. Tel: 01293 531096.

CRAYFORD MANOR HOUSE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EASTBOURNE Peter Gill, on 01323 646853

LA SOCIÉTÉ GUERNESIAISE Geoff Falla the Hon.

Secretary on Guernsey 724101

<http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/town/estate/vs76/astrosec.htm>

HAMPSHIRE Roy Dodd on 01705 646875

AS OF HARINGEY

16th Sept "The Origin of Lunar Impact Craters" - Dr Fred Price

18th Nov "Deep Sky Observing" - Owen Brazell

Dec 9th "Observing the Sun - & Cornwall eclipse" Lee McDonald

Gary Marriott, 0181 803 5961 or expo@garym.demon.co.uk

<http://www.garym.demon.co.uk/index.htm>

HINCKLEY & DISTRICT Shaun Albrighton, 4 Walnut Close, Hartshill, Nuneaton CV10 0HX (01203 397183).

HUDDERSFIELD ASTRONOMICAL & PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

- contact Robert Williams 01484-537032

Fri Oct 2nd - "What kick started the Universe" Roy Caswell -

Huddersfield Town Hall

Fri Oct 23rd - Observ. Night - Orionid Meteors - R.A.Williams

Oct 26th-31st - Observatory Open Week

Nov 6th - "Charles Messier" - R.A.Williams

Nov 23rd 28th - Observatory Open Week

Fri Dec 4th - "Astronomical Extremes" Dr J.Lloyd-Evans -

Huddersfield Town Hall

Except where indicated meetings are at 4A, Railway Street, Huddersfield.

ILKESTON & DISTRICT Mark Thomas on 0115 939 8133 or John Brown on 0177 376 8836.

IRISH AS Stephen Ryan at PO Box 2547, Dublin 11 or Tel: (from the UK) 00 3531 864 1382

LEICESTER AS

A new venue as from this month. Meeting at Braunston Civic Centre, Leicester

Details: Ann Bonell, 53 Warden's Walk, Leicester Forest East, Leics. LE3 3G0 Tel. 0116 2394481

<http://www.thenet.co.uk/~obiwan/astro/index.html>

LETCHEWORTH

Meet on the last Wed of each Month

Contact: Eric Hutton 01462 626032. bookman@rmplc.co.uk

<http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/bookman/ldas/>

LIVERPOOL AS

Ken Clarke, 31 Sandymount Drive, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 0LJ (Please enclose a large sae) Tel: 0151-638 3270 or 0151-794 5356 (24hrs)

E-Mail: ggastro@liverpool.ac.uk

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/~ggastro/home.html>

LOUGHTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

30th Anniversary and a NEW VENUE with all modern conveniences after 25 years at Loughton Hall. For the last

year meetings have been at the clubhouse of Buckhurst Hill Junior Football club. Although this venue has been our saviour when we thought all was lost, there have been some murmurings amongst the membership who hankered after rather more luxurious surroundings.

The new venue is at Theydon Bois Scout Hall, Loughton Lane, Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex.

Meetings every Thursday at 8:00pm.

Contact Charles Munton. 14a Manor Road, Wood Green, London N22 4YJ

0181 889 9253, charles@munton.u-net.com

MANCHESTER AS Our forthcoming season of lectures will bring Professor A. Lawrence of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh and Dr Jeremy Lloyd - Evans of Leeds University to the MAS.

c/o Godlee Observatory, UMIST, Sackville St, Manchester. M60 1QD

(0161 2004977, 24hrs. Fax 0161 2287040).

<http://www.u-net.com/ph/mas/>

MANSFIELD AND SUTTON

Graham Shepherd on 01623 552276

<http://www.innotts.co.uk/~shepherd/index.html>

MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON Mark Benton 01709 587887 or e mail

Mark.benton@rotherham.gov.uk

MILTON KEYNES Pierre Girard on 01234 391489 or sgpird@compuserve.com

NORTH EAST LONDON Stephen Karpel, 99 Churchfield Road, ACTON, London. W3 6AH Tel: 0181 992 5751

NORWICH Malcolm Jones 01508 578392

NOTTINGHAM Carl Brennan on 0115 938 4521
CFDS has had a success in that the latest City Council guidelines for street lighting contains a whole section on reducing light pollution with a heavy emphasis on reducing skyward bound light. A major highways re-fitting program is using full cut off lighting, and benefits are already being seen along the A52.

17th Sept - Informal Meeting.

1st Oct - AGM, Djanogly City Technology Centre (7:00pm)

ORWELL

Fri 2nd October, 8pm at The Friends Meeting House, Fonnereau Road, Ipswich. "Intergalactic Stars" - Nial Tavar of the IOA.

Thur 3rd Dec, 8pm at The Friends Meeting House. "Comets and how to Catch one" Martin Moberly of the BAA.

Peter Richards on 01473 659806 oasieng@btbcs.bt.co.uk

<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk:80/~ipswich/>

PAPWORTH

Meets on the 1st Wed of each month (except July) from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Bradbury Progression Centre, Papworth Everard, near Huntingdon.

Keith Triton on 01767 677219 (even) kpt2@tutor.open.ac.uk

PONLAF The Astronomy Forum at the Univ. of North London.

Ponlaf hold monthly meetings (last Fri in month) in term-time, when an invited speaker talks on a subject of Astronomical interest. A recent meeting in May featured Konrad Malin-Smith on "Some Eclipse Experiences". A previous talk by Konrad featured "Pulsars" which both parties must have enjoyed the experience as Konrad is back again.

Sept 25th - Nial Tanvir - The post Hipparcos Extra-Galactic Distance Scale

Pat Prigmore, 0171 753 5126

RENFREWSHIRE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held every Friday evening at 7.30 pm at the COATS OBSERVATORY, PAISLEY.

Contact: Mark Pollock TelNo: 0141 561 3554

Or e-mail Ian Martin at Imartin@aol.com

SALFORD AS

Change of lecture venue. The 1998/99 winter session of lectures will be held in room 535, The Maxwell Building, University of Salford, The Crescent, Salford - at 7:30pm

Upto Christmas the guest speakers are:

28th Oct, Steve Bennett (The Rocket Man) talking on "Project Starchaser-Into Orbit by 2001".

25th Nov, Dr P James on "Dark Matter and Galaxies"

16th Dec, Dr Allan Chapman's annual Christmas Lecture, this year on "Graham College; Astronomy for the citizens of London, 1597 to 1687".

Lectures to be given by society members are:

14th Oct, Ken Irving talking on "My Astronomy"

11th Nov, Prof Alan Smith on "The History of Watches"

The annual coach outing on May 16th 1998 was to St Michael's Church, Much Hoole and nearby Carr House, Bretherton, associated with Jeremiah Horrocks. A lunch break in Clitheroe was followed by a visit to Stonyhurst College. Here, there was a guided tour of the college, then sandwiches and cakes with tea and coffee. The astronomical interest was provided by Mr Fintan O'Reilly. In the lecture theatre he talked about the college, their solar studies and the history of the 15" Grubbs Parson Telescope. A visit to the observatory to see the historical telescope completed the tour. Finishing up in Whalley Abbey, the local outing, dominated by splendid views of Pendle Hill, was enjoyed by all in glorious sunshine.

Kath Redford 2 Albemarle Road, Swinton, Manchester. M27 5ST
Tel: 0161 7943179.

E-mail: salford@ast.man.ac.uk

WWW:<http://asp2.ast.man.ac.uk:8000/~salfordac/sasholme.htm>

SAWTRY & DISTRICT Brooke Norton on 01487 831683.

SCOTTISH ASTRONOMERS

[Produce a wonderful Magazine every quarter - FAS Ed.]

Ken Mackay at Hayford House, Cambusbarron, Stirling FK7 9PR.

<http://star-www.st-and.ac.uk/~fv/sag/sag.html>

SHROPSHIRE David Woodward on 01743 872991 of the Programme Secretary John Chidlow on 01743 249823 for details on forthcoming events.

SOLENT AS Ken Medway on 01703 582204.

SOUTH EAST KENT John Kemp on 01227 766470

STAFFORD & DISTRICT AS.

Meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month from September to August at 7:15pm at Weston Road School, Blackheath Lane, Stafford.

Contact Lydia Hodgkinson at 6 Elm Walk, Penkridge, Staffs. ST19 5NL. Tel: 01785 712065

STRATFORD upon AVON Robin Swinbourne, 18 Old Milverton, Leamington Spa, CV32 6SA, Tel: 01926 882187

SUNDERLAND Don Simpson, 0191 5670151

SWANSEA Mrs Sandra Stewart

Email sandra@moonmoths.demon.co.uk.

<http://www.swan.ac.uk/astra/starpage.htm>

VECTIS AS John Smith on 01983 865451 or 27 Forest Road, Winford, Sandown, I.O.W. PO36 0JY.

MEETINGS 7.30pm, fourth Friday of each month except December, VENUE Lord Louis Library Meeting Room, Orchard Street, Newport.

Biggest news is the opening in September of their new observatory. The committee is busily organising itself for the undertaking to make the observatory self supporting to cover the considerable running costs. To meet the running costs the observatory will be

made available to outside bodies, such as schools etc. However, the interests of Vectis members are not being overlooked and there will be "ring fenced" periods reserved for members.

WALSALL

WALSALL AS goes from strength to strength, meetings every Thursday at the Free Trade Inn, Wood Lane, Pelsall. For details of monthly lectures and astro diary phone Alan Ledbury on 01922 632 624
<http://wkweb5.cableinet.co.uk/G.Ledbury/WASINDEX.HTM>

WEST CORNWALL Mr. Robin Hughes
93 Atlantic Way, Porthtowan, Cornwall
TR4-8AH 01209 890736

WEST OF LONDON Duncan Radbourne on 0181 952 2816
A recent speaker has been Dr Andy Albrecht, a cosmologist from Imperial College specialising in the early Universe.

WEST YORKS Ken Willoughby, 11 Hardisty Drive, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 4BU on 01977 795535 Email Terry Cymbalisty on terry@ndl.co.uk
<http://staff.ndl.co.uk/terry/wyas>

WILLIAM HERSCHEL SOCIETY
Al Crotcher on 01225 311342 or 19 New Kings Street, Bath, BA1 2BL,

WOLVERHAMPTON
Michael Bryce, at Iona, 16 Yellowhammer Court, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 4RR; Tel: 01562 863545;
michael_bryce@hotmail.com
<http://members.wbs.net/homepages/w/e/m/wemfas/index.htm>

1998 Programme
14 September; Dr Allan Chapman (University of Oxford); Edmund Halley: The Man behind the Comet
28 September; Barbara Russell; Birth of a Small Blue Planet
12 October; Annual General Meeting
26 October; Allan Wells; Lunar Observing
09 November; Prof. A M Cruise (University of Birmingham); Gravity in the Universe
23 November; Various Society Presenters; Constellations
07 December; Ian Gray; Astronomical Photography
1999 Programme
11 January; Michael Bryce; Quiz Night
25 January; Steve Evans; Multiple Station Meteor Photography
08 February; Dr John Cooper (Wolverhampton Science Park); Jodrell Bank (1964 -- 1968)
22 February; Frank Barretto; Doomsday Rogues of the Deep Sky part 3
08 March; Slide Evening
22 March; Andy Salmon; The Soviet Space Programme
12 April; Malcolm Astley; Title to be announced
17 May; To be arranged
14 June; Michael Bryce and Simon Barnett; A guide to the Total Solar Eclipse

WORCESTER Change of contact.
S.Bateman, 12 Bozward Street, Worcester. WR2 5DE
Telephone : (01905) 420531
Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month 8 to 10 pm at Worcester College of Higher Education, Henwick Grove, Worcester Alternative Contact Mr C.Livingston, 14 Ellsdon Rise, Kempsey, WORCS. (01905) 821360

WORTHING AS
Sept 9th "From Coconuts to Cosmos", Chris Wood (The Kettering Group

Oct 14th AGM
Contact: Nick Quinn at nick@nquinn.demon.co.uk
<http://www.nquinn.demon.co.uk/was>.

CENTRAL SIDEWALK
Stuart Williams 26 Matlock Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 3QD.

If your society is not listed above or has incorrect details or none at all then it may well be your secretary hasn't sent me any! Please remember to send any correspondence to the new Editor - **Rob Barter**. Some letters are still being sent to the previous but one editor.

Publications Available

The FAS have a number of publications available:

Astrocalender
(Annually Available from October 1998)

Observational Astronomy
A plan for the beginner - by S.J Lubuck, 50 pages of A5.
£2.00 + A5 SAE + 31p stamp

Step by Step Astrophotography
By Rob Johnson, 16 pages of A5
£1.30 + A5 SAE + 31p stamp

Using a Telescope
By Tony Williams, 46 pages of A5
£1.80 + A5 SAE + 31p stamp

Choosing a Telescope or Binoculars
By Robin Scagell & Harry Everett, 12 pages of A5.
£0.60 + A5 SAE + 26p stamp

Hazards & Safety Guidelines

FAS Handbook
The 1998/1999 edition should be available by now.

Contact Publication Secretary For Details & Bulk Orders

Payment - Cheques payable to F.A.S
MALCOLM JONES
Tabor House, Mulbarton Road
Norwich, Norfolk. NR14 8JT

E-mail: 100257.1434@compuserve.com

Something Special Happening?

If you'd like a special mention in the newsletter then send in a short note and I'll add it to the Society New Roundup in the next available issue - Ed

1998 FAS/Cambridge Convention

Saturday 3rd October 1998

9.00am - 6.00pm

Pippard Lecture Theatre

Cavendish Laboratories

Madingley Road

Cambridge

Sponsored by Astronomy Now

Speakers Include:

Nial Tanvir, (IOA), "The cosmological distance scale and the age of the universe";

Dr Steve Bell, (HM Nautical Almanac Office, RGO), "UK Eclipse August 1999";

Duncan Copp, "The work of Vulcan in the Solar System: a look at Volcanoes on other Worlds";

Neil Bone, (BAA Meteor Section Director), "A Storm coming?"

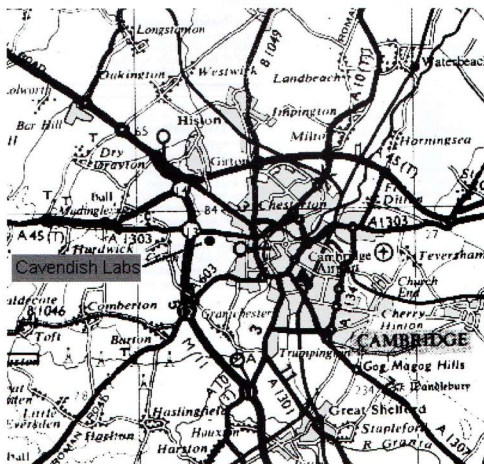
Paul Murdin (PPARC), "The Cosmic History of Water";

Tickets for refreshments prebooked (£5.00) will include lunch and refreshments (tea/coffee), during the day. Tea & coffee + light snacks during the day may be available separately. See details on the day.

Tickets: (£4.00 prebooked) - (£5.00 on the day if available) Available NOW.

Prebooked: From FAS Treasurer. Cheque (Made out to F.A.S.) S.A.E.

Details: FAS WebSite <http://www.fedastro.demon.co.uk>



President: Alan Dowdell,
Uraniborg, Stoke, St. Mary Bourne, ANDOVER, Hants SP11 0NB Tel: 01264 738619
arcead@hantsnet.hants.gov.uk

Vice President: Pam Spence
1, Water's Edge, Brighton Road, LANCING,
West Sussex, BN15 8LL Tel: 01903 752834
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4TH LOUGHTON AS EQUINOX SKYCAMP

Friday 18th - Sunday 27th September 1998. Dower House Touring Park, East Harling, Thetford, Norfolk. NR16 2SE Tel: 01953 717314
A well proven dark site for astronomy.
Main Event Day: Saturday 19th September. Astro Boot Sale, Prize Raffle and Evening BBQ
Guest speakers to include Konrad Malin-Smith, George Sallit and Nik Syzmaek and Ian King.
Cost per pitch per night £7.00 (reduction available for prebooking)
For details send a large SAE, by 11th September, to: Mike Cook, 50 Linley Cres, Romford, Essex. RM7 8RD Tel: 0961 832 827

MANCHESTER AS ASTRODAY Oct 3rd 1998

Sachas Hotel, Manchester

Dr Allan Chapman, 'Animals in the Sky: The Astronomical Chart from Bayer to Bevis 1603-1750'
Dr. David W. Hughes, 'Asteroids: Their Origin and History'
Chris Trayner, 'Tunguska: An Example of an Airburst'
See Manchester AS for contact details

FUND RAISING IDEAS

Stafford & District A.S. are looking for ideas for raising money for a Society Telescope and other equipment. If anyone has any thoughts or contacts for local (or national) bodies able to help then please pass them on. See "Society Roundup" for contact details for Stafford.

National Geographic - 3D Mars

August's edition contains a feature article on the Mars Pathfinder mission to Mars which touched down on the planet last July. What makes this article special are the large 3D pictures of the landscape reproduced on fold-out sheets complete with enclosed glasses, which can also be used on the Titanic article also in the issue.

Information to all Secretaries/Treasurers

Some Astronomical Societies this year have not advised the FAS of changes within their Societies i.e. Secretary/Treasurer. To keep our records up to date the FAS/Membership Secretary and FAS/Treasurer need to know as soon as possible.
The FAS Newsletters are sent to a named person nominated by each Society for distribution. Please advise any changes within your society to the FAS Treasurer.

Advertising Space

This space and more (up to A5) can be your for a small fee. The newsletter has a circulation over 3500 to a specialised readership.
Contact the FAS/Treasurer for details

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Remember to send society contact changes to the Membership Secretary, Eric Hutton, 14 Folly Close, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 9DG. Tel: 01462 626032
E-mail: bookman@rmplc.co.uk

Hazards & Safety Guidelines

This booklet has now been issued to all member societies free during the summer.
I thank the many AS who have responded well to the booklet. Additional copies will be available later this year, there will be a small charge (Printing & Postage.)

Deadline for submission for next newsletter - 15th Nov 98.



Please remember to send ALL articles to the NEW EDITOR, Rob Barter.