



PRESIDENT Ron Kelley, 11 Meadowcroft, Plovers Rise, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1BD
Tel: 01948 662201 E-mail: president@fedastro.org.uk

TREASURER Peter Cooke, Haven Cottage, Frithville, Boston, Lincs, PE22 7DS
Tel: 01205 750868 E-mail: treasurer@fedastro.org.uk

SECRETARY Clive Down, 10, Glan-y-Llyn, NORTH CORNELLY, Bridgend County Borough, CF33 4EF
Tel: 01656 740754 E-mail secretary@fedastro.org.uk

EDITOR Frank Johns, 38 Chester Road, Newquay, Cornwall. TR7 2RH
Tel: 01637 878020 E-mail newsletter@fedastro.org.uk Fax: 08700 558463

FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

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

There is money out there then!

With the benefit of a grant from their local council Salford A S have just acquired an LX90 (8") Meade fully computerised telescope.



Ray Smith operating the handset of the new LX90 and showing a few visitors the night sky

Also, West Yorkshire A.S. have just had a grant from Awards For All toward a 14" Meade. This brings the total grant funds received in the last 5 years to £85,000.

Birmingham A S Lose Observatory to Vandals and Fire

The Birmingham A S Observatory at the Priory School was destroyed by fire on the evening of 26th July. It appears that vandals broke in, smashed equipment and started a fire inside the building. As well as the Society's telescope and computer, a few members' telescopes and equipment were also lost. Although the Fire Brigade attended the scene, the building and dome were burnt out and there is little or nothing to be salvaged. The society was covered by Insurance and the Fire Services and Insurance Assessors considering the situation.

The observatory housed a computerised Meade 10" telescope with CCD camera and associated computer equipment, a portable 14" Dobsonian and several other instruments. The telescope and camera were obtained by means of an "Awards For All" grant from the National Lottery. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham opened it in the spring of 2002 after several years of hard work by members to obtain planning consent and then construct the building itself.

The 2005 FAS CONVENTION & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1st October 2005

At the Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, Cambridge

Societies

Society for Popular Astronomy
Society for the History of Astronomy
OUSAPS (Open University Society for Astronomy and Planetary Science)
British Astronomical Association - Campaign for Dark Skies

Traders Stands

Andromeda Books, Aurora Books, AWR Technology, Cape Newise
Earth and Sky, Faulkes Telescope Project, Green Witch,
Lambda Publications, LH Corp, COSMOS Magazine

FAS Raffle: Tickets will be available throughout the convention and the prizes will be drawn at the end of the day. Tickets will be £1 each. Currently the prizes on offer include:

- Two hours observing time on the Faulkes Telescope!!
- A collection of astronomy related products donated by Phillips
- Collection of books donated by Cambridge University Press
- Collection of book donated by Springer
- A Prize donated by Armagh Planetarium
- Equinox Planetarium Software for Mac OS X donated by Microprojects

8.30 am
10-10.10am-
10.10-11.10am
11.10am-11.35am-
11.35am- 12.20pm-
12.20pm-1.45pm

1.45- 2.45pm
2.45 -3.10pm-
3.10- 4.10pm

4.10-4.45pm
4.45pm-5.45pm

5.45pm-:
6.00pm-

Convention Programme

Doors open
Introduction from President, FAS
Dr Alan Longstaff - *"Mars Revisited"*
Break
AGM of the F.A.S.
Lunch and Observatory Tours
*plus a Live Faulkes Telescope Demo with
Dr Paul Roche, Director, Faulkes Telescope Project*
Neil Bone: *'Talking up a Storm - Aurorae in Cycle 23'*
Break
Professor David Southwood (European Space Agency
Science Director): *'Titan, Mars and Beyond'*
Break
Professor John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland:
*'The High Energy Sun—Highlights of the RHESSI
Mission'*
Closing Remarks:- President, FAS
Meeting Ends

EDITORIAL

First of all I would like to counter any accusations of nepotism (if that is the right word!!). The less than astute reader will observe that there are several articles in this issue related to my home county—Cornwall.

The review of the PST, by John Durston, can be put down to me—it resulted from an evangelical (FAS-type) visit to the Callington club. The article on the Ken Bennett enterprise, however, was sent to me by Joy Griffiths from the Dark Skies group.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all members of the FAS to attend the Annual Convention at Cambridge on Saturday 1st October. A really good programme of speakers has been arranged and there will be trade stands and a live Faulkes Telescope demo during the lunch break. In my opinion it is worth going to this event for the tour of the historic site at IofA alone, which also takes place during the lunch break.

We know that for many of you Cambridge is not the easiest place to get to, me included, but I am confident that all the visitors will feel it very rewarding. See you there then - OK?.

Liverpool A S and Campaign for Dark Skies



Photo courtesy Gerard Gilligan

Liverpool Astronomical Society, were involved in a major series of events held within Liverpool Cathedral.

The Society held a joint display and information desk with the BAA Campaign for Dark Skies, who were represented by local officer Gerard Gilligan.

During a special School's day of events on June 8th, 500 children from 15 local schools were able to see a demonstration of how the problem of Light Pollution is adversely affecting the science of astronomy.

A group of members from Salford A S using the LX90 obtained as a result of a successful grant application



Solar Eclipse

Plus
The Pyramids
El Alamein
Sallum
Desert Feast
Cairo Museum

A six day journey to the Western Desert of Egypt,
one of the best viewpoints in the eclipse's path.
For more information

www.windsandstars.co.uk

KNOW THE COUNCIL MEMBER

Samuel George – Publicity Officer FAS

So it is my turn to provide some background about myself, something I don't mind doing as most of my friends know!

I'm 22 year old Brummie. I recently completed my MSci in Physics and Astrophysics at the University of Birmingham and I now have the privilege of being able to continue in area of Astrophysics as a PhD student. I am also a keen amateur astronomer (is this starting to sound like a singles advert?? If so I am after someone with a good sense of humour, knowledge of astronomer and not afraid to go to dark places!), though if I am honest I am much better at accessing data taken by a large telescope than taking my own!

I have now been in the job of publicity officer for almost two years, I very much enjoy being on the council of the FAS (oh and if you see the pictures of the council I'm the young "scruffy" one with all my own hair!).

As for my amateur astronomy interests I was the Chair of the University of Birmingham Astronomical Society for almost two years and their treasurer for about the same length of time. I am very proud with what we have achieved there and we have probably one of the best University based societies in the county there (if I do say so myself!). I am also a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. I also love giving talks; I get huge satisfaction out of this – especially to young student groups.

Most of my time over the last few years has been taken up with being a student, so you can guess what that means (hard-work, drink, take-out...). I have also made time to run my own

website (<http://www.krioma.net>), where I essentially write my thoughts and things I find during the course of my life (which inevitably involves quite a bit of astronomy). This is something that gives me great pleasure. I do, however, wonder who reads it but according to my site statistics quite a few people do so I can't moan.

Oh and if you are wondering what the heck the photo is about, it is me at the Reading Festival last year after having too little sleep, a bit too much caffeine, mud and sunshine! You just have to love living in a tent with 60,000 others listening to rock music.



A year with a PST By John Durston -the Callington Community Astronomy Group

This article is my experiences with the Coronado PST (Personal Solar Telescope), I have also asked a colleague and fellow member of the Callington Community Astronomy Group for his thoughts on the PST after owning his for a month now.

If you are like me, when reading a review or peoples experience of equipment you want the bottom line first then how that was justified.

Is the PST value for money – Yes

Does the instrument deliver on its promise – Yes



John Durston setting up the PST (in the hope that the sun will shine!!)

Knowing what I know now would I have bought the telescope in the first place – most definitely.

For me the sun has always held an interest, its our nearest star who's proximity gives us the opportunity to study it in detail.

Several years ago I was more than happy just looking at sunspots in white light, watching them grow, fade and move from day to day. Then on a day course at the Normal locker observatory, the Lockyer refractor was fitted with a Hydrogen Alpha (Ha for short) filter. Though this telescope I saw part of the sun with a number of faculae on the limb looking like trees on a distant horizon. This view ignited a spark of interest in Ha, but deep down the realisation that the cost of Ha telescopes made the likelihood of affording my own scope extremely remote.

In January 2004 as my thoughts turned towards the Transit of Venus, it dawned on me, wouldn't it be something to witness this event in Hydrogen alpha. I had seen the adverts in Sky and Telescope in late 2003 introducing Coronado's new baby and decided to find out more about this instrument. After discovering the ticket price was expected to be in the region of \$500, I pre-ordered my PST with OPT in the states. There were two reasons for the importing the scope from America, the first being if anyone was going to get PSTs before the transit it would be an American supplier, secondly a strong pound. With the money saved I was also able to get an 18mm CEMAX eyepiece. All I had to do was wait and as it turned out, wait and wait. As June approached the Coronado message board was full questions about the PST delivery schedule. The reason for the delays was design modifications to add a tuneable filter. This was originally planned to be introduced in an updated PST later in the production run. A week after watching the transit in white light the PST arrived.

My first impression was one of surprise, the PST was bigger and heavier than I had imagined. With the exception of the nylon eyepiece retaining screw the telescope is an all metal construction, finished to a high quality. The black body and the gold tube makes this

(Continued on page 5)

NOTICES

FEDERATION of ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

NOTICE of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Saturday 1st October 2005
At The Institute of Astronomy
Cambridge

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last minutes
4. Reports from officers
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
5. Constitution amendments
6. Subscriptions 2006/2007
7. Election of Officers 2005/2006
8. Election of Auditor
9. Any other business

Cardiff Astronomical Society 30th Anniversary Convention Saturday October 15th

Speakers:

Professor Monica Grady (Natural History Museum)
Dr Alan Fitzsimmons (Queens University, Belfast)
Dr Paul Roche (Cardiff University)

Nik Szymanek

and also

Faulkes Telescope Session at lunch time and a display of lunar samples and meteorites (courtesy of The Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council), with trade stands in attendance.

Venue:

Department of Physics and Astronomy
Cardiff University, The Parade, Newport Road, Cardiff

Commencing at: 09:30

Admission: **FREE! and a warm welcome to all!**

Further information from:

Assistant Secretary, Theresa Cooper Tel:01656 646920
or visit the web site at: <http://www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org>

Leeds Astronomical Society Astromeeet 2005 2005 November 12, Saturday

10th Anniversary, at the Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre,
Leeds University, Woodhouse Lane.

Doors open 9.00am, first speaker 10.00am

Speakers include: Dr. Allan Chapman, Prof John Dyson
Prof Clive Ruggles, Prof Sir Arnold Wolfendale
Prof Lionel Wilson.

Trade stalls.

Admission fee: TBA.

For further information see: www.leedsastronomy.org.uk

Ken Bennett - Philanthropic Entrepreneur...

by Joy Griffiths, Local Officer, BAA Campaign for Dark Skies
E-mail: joy@grif9.freemove.co.uk Telephone & Fax 01460 67694

Ken Bennett, once nuclear engineer, then a pig farmer, and now a philanthropic entrepreneur. *Philanthropic* entrepreneur? Well, yes, I agree that, whilst one can accept the enormous leap between being a nuclear engineer, to mucking out pigs (by choice...) there appears to be a tension in describing an entrepreneur as 'philanthropic'. After all, my Collins Concise English Dictionary describes an entrepreneur as "the owner or manager of a business enterprise who, by risk and initiative, attempts to make profits". Well, there's nothing wrong with making a profit ("excess of revenues over outlays and expenses in a business enterprise"). It's essential to any project that it make a profit if it's to move forward. In the fast-moving scientific world, it's not enough to 'make do' with soon-outdated equipment. Besides, even when Ken realises his dream, he has put so much into it, financially and physically (with full support and co-operation of his wife, Muriel) that it will be a long time before he will be in the wonderful position of being able to consider how to make the best use of profits for the enhancement of his multiple observatory site.

Ken retired from his position as a nuclear engineer at Devenport Dock in 1987, where he had supervised a team preparing all the equipment for the first refuelling of nuclear-powered submarine HMS Swiftsure, and also trained teams performing the refuel. On retirement, he took up pig farming - until swine fever and Government-imposed restrictions and legislation made his farming activities too expensive and onerous to continue. After some 'lateral thinking', he cashed in his farming 'chips' and, recognising the potential for an observatory under his beautiful skies in Cornwall, decided to build a complex which could be used by others, particularly youngsters, to experience the science of astronomy. He has built a run of four domes (see photograph). Of four planned lodges, one is complete. However, he says he doesn't have the technical expertise to choose equipment for the domes. Ken says, "I've had advice on equipment



together with great enthusiasm from some of the local notable astronomers but they are heavily involved with their own work to afford time to realise the best of the great potential of my observatory. It is also very important that the astronomers who give the advice, have the confidence and time to work with the equipment in fulfilling our objectives, i.e. the astronomers or organisation would give the long term expertise and committed time that is of so much importance." He wants the facility to be put to good use. He hopes that, with the necessary state-of-the-art equipment, "...it will attract every kind of stargazer - from schoolchildren to graduates, when it's completed" and that youngsters will be enabled to establish a lifelong interest in the sciences. This is Ken's prime motivation. It's well-known that centuries of star-gazers have been inspired by their vision of the heavens to want to know more about the science involved.

The location of the multiple observatory is near Liskeard, Cornwall. Its site potential is good, set in the heart of the Cornish countryside, at the top of a gently sloping, south-facing hillside. Experts, including Mike Willmott, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society,

(Continued on page 5)

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

As most of your members will know, there is an annular eclipse here on the morning of October 3rd this year and at present I have 4 eclipse chasers coming out here to the province of Valencia to view it. I live in Oliva, a small Spanish town located on the coast between Alicante and Valencia, and have local B&B contacts for anyone coming out to view the eclipse and wishing to find accommodation. Valencia is the closest airport for arrivals.

Mike Glazier

Javea and District Astronomical Society

Tel: 0034 96 285 3202

e-mail mikeonmars@jazzfree.com

Address: Calle de la Cantereria 35, Oliva, 46780.Valencia, Spain

(Continued from page 4)

say lack of light pollution on Bodmin Moor makes it ideal for astronomy, with the Milky Way clearly visible. Cornwall has some of the darkest skies in England. Daytime attractions include trout fishing; horse riding; clay-pigeon shooting, and nearby moors for walking. The coast is within easy reach, and the Sterts open air theatre and arts centre are nearby.



Apart from the completed observatories, there will be four holiday lodges, each with four bedrooms, plus two en suite showers and a family bathroom. Kitchens will be fully fitted, and Lodges will have full central heating. Both the observatory and lodges are wheelchair-friendly. One Lodge is built, and is being fitted out in readiness for use. Building of the others is scheduled for completion in December 2005. Two Lodges will have priority for observatory use. Ken has named the observatory Steren Kernow - Cornish for Cornwall Star.

The initiative has had some banking advice and financial backing, but they are keen to see progress on the investment and, of course, sooner rather than later.

Expert guidance and further funding for the observatory if it is to fulfil its potential, is now urgent for him to complete the project. Having already spent "hundreds of thousands of pounds" on his venture, he now needs "...others to come in and make it happen." Finally, Ken says "Certainly, the more astronomers who might like to become involved in this embryonic observatory, the better. All I can wish for is that they are able to "jell" together. I believe that eventually the observatory could become commercial rather than a charitable trust and those involved could benefit from their own efforts. My own expectations could be modest because after nearly eight years to reach this stage I would rather the project became a success, and that would give the greatest satisfaction."

Ken's contacted details are: kenbennet@ukonline.co.uk

(Continued from page 3)

instrument look something special. The PST not a budget Ha scope, but a Ha scope at a budget price.

For once the demon of the new equipment curse was not paying attention and it was sunny on the day of delivery. First light can be summed up in one simple word WOW. A year on this is still the best way of putting the experience into words.

The 40mm objective might seem small but the sun is large and bright. This telescope opens up the dynamic world of the sun. In Ha the sun can be observed changing by the hour. Through the PST prominences, flares, plages, filaments, granulation and spicules are visible. So what view does the telescope deliver, the inbuilt finder makes finding the sun a reasonably simple task. Once in the field of view the orange disk is focused using the small focusing knob on the rear of the telescope. Once in focus the tunable filter can be used to adjust the view and bring out the detail on the sun by turning ring at the base. As the filter is turned different features are visible.

The delicate arc of prominences can be seen in detail as they loop across the sun's limb show. The filaments show up as dark fluctuating lines across the solar disk whilst granulation gives the solar surface the appearance of an orange skin. Plages are normally located near sunspots and are visible as large whitish-yellow patches on the sun. Each of these features slide in and out of view as the filter is turned. A point can be reached where all of these be seen together but with quite without the detail of when the filter is tuned specifically for them.

Depending on the eyepiece used a sweetspot can be noticed where detail is more evident than on the rest of the solar disk. This is more noticeable with higher magnifications. A similar effect was noted in the Sky and Telescope review of the PST last year.

Although the PST is predominantly a visual telescope, photographs can be taken afocally using a digital compact camera. Even though the sun is bright a camera adaptor increases the success rate of photographs taken using this method. There is not enough focus travel to allow my web cam or DSLR to achieve focus with out additional optics like a Barlow lens. The settings used on the camera differ from model to model some cameras requiring exposure compensation to be set for best results whilst others do not. This must be down the sensitivity of the chip in the camera.

Can the PST be improved. The telescope is supplied with a 12.5mm Kelner eyepiece, that I have only used three times, twice when I got the scope and once when writing this to refresh my memory as to why I don't use it. The view using the Kelner is acceptable but not brilliant. Most of us will have a decent quality Possel eyepiece, put this into the PST and the image of the sun is improved drastically. Add a Baader contrast booster or similar to the Possel and the views are incredible. The Meade zoom eyepiece works well in the PST allowing the magnification to be adjusted to match the sky conditions.

The CEMAX eyepiece works well providing high contrast views of the surface detail, but similar results are obtained with Possel and contrast filter arrangement.

One useful gadget is the PST screen made by Astro-engineering. This casts a shadow over the eyepiece making observing far more comfortable, although Simon has found a baseball cap has the same effect.

Because I use my PST on a standard photographic tripod the Orion slow motion control head has proved very useful. The main disadvantage of this it does not support the whole weight of the PST and a heavy camera without slipping.

Whoever in Coronado had the idea of producing a budget priced Ha deserves my warmest thanks for enabling me and others like me to enter into the world of Hydrogen Alpha solar observing at an attainable price.

The PST is a must for anyone interesting in the sun and I wouldn't be without mine. Give me a sunny day and the PST and you have defined happiness.

SOCIETY ROUND UP

ABINGDON AS

Abingdon AS 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

AS OF HARINGEY

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

Sep 22: The Wonders of the Aurora Gary Marriot

Oct 20: Where were you 21.30 on 27 Dec 04 Tim Horbury

Dec 8: The Return of the GUIZ + Xmas Party

ANDOVER AS

Secretary: Darren Baker e-mail: Descartes46@aol.com

AYLESBURY AS

Meetings take place at the Scout Hut, Oakfield Road, Aylesbury.

Contact Simon Foster on 01844 216108

www.aylesbury-astronomy.org.uk

BEDFORD AS

Meets last Wednesday of every month at the Piazza Smyth Community Observatory, Bedford School, Pemberly Avenue

Contact: Paul Barton, 01234 309249 www.bedastro.org.uk

www.bedsastro.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM AS

Wednesday Evenings at Aston Uni. Club Night; Library, telescope construction, & if it is clear observing at the Priory Observatory.

www.birmingham-astronomy.co.uk

27 Sep: Observatories-BAS & Home John Dee

25 Oct: Observing Jupiter and its Moons John Dee

29 Nov: Viking astronomy Martin Lunn

BOLTON AS

Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive Ladybridge Estate, from 7.30pm to 9pm. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday.

<http://boltonastro.fateback.com/index.html>. Secretary: Peter Miskiw.

BRADFORD AS

Meetings usually held on a Monday in the upstairs room at Eccleshill Library, Bolton Road, Bradford, BD2 4SR at 7.30pm until 9.45pm.

For any further information please see our website at www.bradford-astro.freeseve.co.uk or ring Hilary on 01274 6725711.

For information about weekly night-time observing ring Andy on 01274 413464 or John on 01274 419142; or for weekend solar observing ring Colin on 01274 586584.

BRANNEL ASTRONOMY

Meetings on third Friday, and from April - the first Saturday, of each month at Brannel School, St Stephens, Cornwall.

www.brannelastronomy.com

Contact: Paul Hughes, 0796 6961802 or Frank Johns, 01637-878020

BRECKLAND AA

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

Open meetings are followed by a tour and observing (weather permitting) at our adjacent observatory, which houses a computer controlled 20 inch reflector. We also have a 9 1/4 inch celestron Scmitt-Cassegraine, an 8 inch reflector and an 8 1/2 inch reflector.

Further details and a full contact list are available on our website at www.breckastro.supanet.com telephone 01953 602045

Contact: Tony Osborne. Anthony@emanti.wanadoo.co.uk

BRISTOL AS

Meetings held on Friday evenings at 7.15pm at Bristol Grammar School, Contact John Pickard (Vice Chairman), tel. 01454 632692 or Tricia Brown (Secretary), tel. 0117 968 5023

www.bristolastro.soc.freeseve.co.uk

CALLINGTON COMMUNITY ASTRONOMY GROUP

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

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

www.callington-astro.org.uk

CARDIFF AS

Meetings alternate Thursdays, September to July, 7.30 pm. at Dept of Physics and Astronomy, Univ. of Wales, 5 The Parade, Newport Road, Cardiff.

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

www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org

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

CLEVELAND & DARLINGTON AS

Most monthly meetings held at Grindon Parish Hall.

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

CORNWALL AS

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

Email: robert.beeman@btinternet.com or info@CornwallAS.org.uk

www.CornwallAS.org.uk

COTSWOLD AS

Meets second Saturday of every month at Shurdington Church Hall, Shurdington, Cheltenham. 7.45 pm. Contact Duncan Willoughby (01452416405)

www.cotswoldas.org.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

CREWKERNE & DISTRICT AS (CADAS)

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

Anne Dodgson Crewastra@aol.com

DUMFRIES AS

Monthly meetings at the St. George's Churchhall, George Street, Dumfries 7 to 9.30 pm. September to May. For dates/details contact the Secretary Klaus Schiller at lesley.burrell@btinternet.com or 01387 269762

Society web-site www.astronomers.ukscientist.com

EASTBOURNE AS

Meeting first Saturday in month at the Willingdon Memorial Hall, Church Street, Willingdon starting at 7.30 p.m. Contact Peter Gill, tel. 01323 646853, email pbj.gill@btinternet.com. www.EastbourneAS.org.uk

EAST RIDING ASTRONOMERS

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

EWELL AS

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

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

Sept 9 Astrobiology Geoff Keir

Nov 11 Mars Rover Jerry Workman

FLAMSTEED AS

Meets 1st Monday each month at Royal Observatory & National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. Contact: Friends Office. tel. 020 8312 6678

As well as a full programme of lectures and visits members assist astronomers at the Royal Observatory with many and various projects, such as assistance with the 28", the seventh largest refracting telescope in the world and regular public solar viewing sessions using the Society's own Coronado telescope.

GUERNSEY AS

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

Contact: Jessica Harris. 01481 247193 www.guildfordas.org

1 Sep: Introduction to Astrophotography Nik Szymanek

6 Oct: to be arranged

3 Nov: Cosmology for the Terrified Chris Lintott

GUILDFORD AS

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

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

HARROGATE AS

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

Contact: Lyn Smith 01937 531171 lynsmithbridgehouse@hotmail.com

HAVERING AS

Meetings 3rd Wednesday of the month. Cranham Community Centre, Marlborough Gardens, Upminster. Contact: Frances Ridgley 01708 227397

www.cdcland.com (follow link for Havering AS)

HERSCHEL AS

Secretary. A.E.Fanning (Tony), 56 Edinburgh Gardens, Windsor, Berks.

SL4 2AW (01753 865053)

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.

HULL & EAST RIDING AS

Meets 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30-9:30 pm, from September to May University of Hull, Wilberforce Building, Room SR 110

Contact: N Swetez, 58 Exeter Street, Cottingham, HU16 4LU

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

HUDDERSFIELD ASTRO. & PHIL. SOCIETY

Meetings at Observatory and Town Hall. www.huddersfieldastronomy.co.uk

ILKESTON & DISTRICT AS

All meetings unless otherwise stated take place at Erewash Museum, Ilkeston, Derbyshire and start at 7.45p.m. Contact Mary McMulty, tel. 01298 78234

13 Sep: Local Astronomy Madeline Cox

13 Dec: A G M & Christmas Party

IRISH AA

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

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

JERSEY AC

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

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

LEEDS AS

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

Mailto: xavier@leedsastronomy.org.uk

14 Sep: Edwin Hubble: Architect of the Universe Robert Williams

12 Oct: Mined over Dark Matter Peter Edwards

9 Nov: An Astrophotographer's Reflections Mark Simpson

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

16 Sep: Presidential Address David Galvin

21 Oct: Astronomy from a Boeing 747 Dr Rhodri Evans

18 Nov: The camera Obscura Mike frost

LOUGHTON AS

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

1 Sep: Brayebrook Observatory Chris Lord

8 Sep: Planetarium Show Bob Mizon

22 Sep: Autumn Skies Andre Robertson/Charles Munton

6 Oct: Mars Express Dr Andrew Coates

27 Oct: Solar Eclipses of 2005/6 Jerry Workman

10 Nov: Space Tourism Dave Gill

17 Nov: Spectroscopy Jack Martin

24 Nov: Variable Stars Chris Jones

1 Dec: Explosions from the Sun Dr Louise Harra

8 Dec: Winter Skies Andre Robertson/Charles Munton

LOWESTOFT & GT YARMOUTH RA (LYRA)

Tues 18th Feb AGM

Meetings normally take place on the 2ND Thur at the Sunrise Inn in Corton Road. All meetings begin at 8pm.

Richard Chilvers: 28 Blyford road, Lowestoft 01502 57401

email: good.goat@tiscali.co.uk www.lyra.gb.net

MARR AS

Meets: Last Tuesday of the month at 1930, Learney Arms Hotel, Thorphins.

Observational meetings as weather permits

Contact David Pattullo, wolfscoot@dialstart.net

www.freewebs.com/marraastro

MID KENT AS

Meetings of the society are held twice a 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/

Sept 9 Nik Szymanek :- Astronomical Imaging from Hawaii

Sept 30 Peter Parish :- Constellation of the month

MILTON KEYNES AS

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

Sep 2 Aurora Vish Deepan and Suzanne Miles

Oct 28 Black Holes are real Dr Paul Murdin

Astromeets on 29 Apr, 24 June, 22 July, 14 Oct, 11 Nov.

MORAY AC

Meetings 1st Friday of every month starting at 7.30PM at Elgin High School, New Elgin, Elgin, Morayshire. Observing Evenings every Friday from mid September at The Bothy, Easterton Airfield. For details contact Ian Brantingham on 01466 771371 or ian@branters

freeserve.co.uk Web site: http://www.sigma-astro.co.uk

NORTH EAST LONDON AS

Meets normally on the third Sunday of each month (excluding August) between 3pm and 6pm, in the Park Room, Wanstead House, 21, The Green, Wanstead. Contact Bernard Beeston, tel. 020 8363 5696

NORTH ESSEX AS

Public meeting at 7:30pm on the third Thursday of every month (excluding August & December) at the BT Exchange Social Hall in Collingwood Road, Witham. For more information contact (01376) 521897.

http://www.neas.org.uk

ORWELL AS

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

Roy Gooding (Secretary) 01473-462977

PAPWORTH ASTRONOMY CLUB

Meets at Upper Pendrill Court, Papworth Everard, nr Huntingdon on the first Wednesday of every month at 19.30. Upper Pendrill Court, Papworth Everard, nr Huntingdon.

Contact Keith Tritton - phone 01767 677219, email kpt2@tutor.open.ac.uk

7 Sep - Magnetic Observations of Saturn Nick Achillios

5 Oct - 10 Minute talks Club Members

2 Nov - Observing Evening

7 Dec - Seasonal Event

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.

SALFORD 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.

28 Sep: Welcome to New Session

26 Oct: Charles Grover—Astronomer Jerry Grover

30 Nov: Binary Kuiper Objects Dr Ian Griffin

14 Deca: History of Light Dr Allan Chapman

SCARBOROUGH & RYDALE AS (Note the change of name)

Meetings held on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Salford Observatory, Chaseley Field, Chasely Road, Salford. Contact 0161 794 3179 email: mail@howarddazely.demon.co.uk www.salfordastro.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, traditional observations, public observation nights, etc. Contact: Tony Bennet 01843-831079

Secretary@sekas.co.uk www.sekas.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE AS

Speaker meetings are generally held on the first Friday of the month in Shrewsbury with a monthly observing meeting at Rodington Village Hall

Phone 01952 820082 for details. www.shropshire-astro.com

Sept 23 Exploring the Universe from Jodrell Bank Tim O'Brien

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY

Contact Stuart Williams, secretary@shastro.org.uk www.shastro.org.uk

SOLENT AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Meetings in Room 8, Oaklands Centre, Fairisle Rd, Lordshill, Southampton

Contact; Ken Medway. 02380-582204 ken@medway1875.freeserve.co.uk

Www.delscope.demon.co.uk

20 Sep: Slide Presentation Derek Hasleden

18 Oct: A G M

SOUTHAMPTON AS

Meetings are held at Edmund Kell Church Hall, Bellevue Road (close to Law Courts) at 7:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Ian Gore - Secretary 01329 310876 Ian.Gore@fshfc.org

Lawrence Harris - Publicity 023 8090 8488

8 Sep: Observing the Lunar 100 Lilian Hobbs

13 Oct: Absolute Beginners Evening Lawrence Harris

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

www.sunderlandastro.com

SWANSEA AS

Meetings held at 7.30pm in lecture theatre C of the Science Block at the University of Wales Campus, Swansea

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

9 Sep: Astronomy on the Web Nick Markell

7 Oct: Lunatik Astronomy Andrew Lound

4 Nov: Geology of the Solar System Pt 2 Caroline Smith

2 Dec: The Amateurs are catching up Nick Hart

TULLAMORE AS

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

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM AS

We are a University society with the majority of our members being Undergraduate students, but we always welcome people along.

Contact Scott Porter, email: scp@star.sr.bham.ac.uk

www.astrosoc.org.uk

VECTIS AS (Isle of Wight)

Meetings held in Parish Hall, Town Lane, Newport.

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

WADHURST AS

Contact: C I Reeves, 01892-784255

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

(Continued on page 8)

LIST OF OFFICERS 2004/2005

For President, Secretary, Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

See front cover for details

Vice President: **Callum Potter**
The Cottage, Bredon's Hardwick, Tewkesbury, Glos.,
GL20 7EE Tel: 01684 773256
E-mail: vicepresident@fedastro.org.uk

PLI & Publications

Distribution Sec: **Eric Hutton**
29, Paternoster Close, Waltham Abbey, Essex,
EN9 3JU. Tel: 01992 610243
E-mail: bookman@rmpc.co.uk

Membership Sec: **Shaun O'Dell**
147 Queen Street, Swinton, Mexborough, South Yorkshire, S64
8NG Tel: Evening: 01709 586695
Mobile: 07714 093723 E-Mail: shaun@msas.org.uk

Handbook Editor: **VACANT**

Publications Sec: **VACANT**

Meetings Organiser: **Stan Waterman**
Amadeus House, Temple End, Charlton, Hitchin, Herts.
SG4 7TE. Tel: 01462 433912
E-mail: stanwaterman@aol.com

Publicity Officer: **Samuel George**
55, North Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6AN
Tel: 0121 249 1584 E-mail: samuel@krioma.net

Slide Librarian: **Bob Dryden**
21 Cross Road, Cholsey, Oxon, OX10 9PE
Tel. 01491 201620 E-Mail: bobdryden@ntlworld.com

Website Coordinator: **Gary Gawthrope**

19 Champion Drive Swinton, South Yorkshire,
S64 8QZ Tel: 01709 584116
E-Mail: gary@theob.f9.co.uk

Chilterns Group : **Ian Coulson**
19 Furnace Cottages, Furnace Lane, Finedon, Northants,
NN9 5NZ Tel: 01536 725563,
E-mail: albedo@freewire.co.uk

Devon Group : **John Parratt**
73 Woolbarn Lawn, Whiddon Valley, Barnstaple, North Devon,
EX32 8PQ. Tel: 01271 372331
E-mail: john@parratt8017.freemove.co.uk

East Anglia Group : **VACANT**
North West Group : **Richard Sargent**

4 Bache Drive, Upton, Chester. CH2 2JB
Tel: 01244 378349 E-mail: richard.sargent@ukgateway.net

SAGAS Rep: **Andy Harris**
32 Silvan Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. TN38 9RD
Tel: 01424 851794 E-mail: andy.corvette@tiscali.co.uk

West Midlands : **Andy Salmon**
Olympus Mons, 13, Jacmar Crescent, Smethwick, WARLEY, West
Midlands. B67 7LF
Tel: 0121 5654845 E-mail: Andy_Salmon@compuserve.com

Yorkshire Group : **Paul Harper**
45, Lydgate, Lepton, HUDDERSFIELD, West Yorkshire,
HD8 OLT Tel: 01484 606832

(Continued from page 7)

WEALDEN AS
Meets third Wednesday of month (exc Aug) at 7.30pm at Upland Community
College. Contact: Keith Woodcock. Email: wealdenas@hotmail.co.uk

WOLAS (West of London AS)
Secretary: Duncan J Radbourne. 9 Wellington Road, Hatch End, Pinner,
Middlesex HA5 4NF. Email: duncan.radbourne@gmail.com
Website: www.wolas.org.uk

WOLVERHAMPTON AS
Meets alternate Mondays, at 7.30pm, between September and April, with
additional meetings in May and June, at Beckminster Methodist Church Hall,
Birches. Contact: Sydney Crump (tel 01299 871606),
email secretary@wolvlas.org.uk www.wolvlas.org.uk

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 Hazel on 07944 751277

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.

FAS Publications

Discounts for quantity purchases, pricing details are available at:
<http://www.fedastro.org.uk>

Members Prices:
Astrocalendar 2005 £2.00 + C5 SAE (34p stamps)
Observational Astronomy £2.20 + C5 SAE (34p stamps)
Using a Telescope £2.30 + C5 SAE (34p stamps)
Step by Step £1.60 + C5 SAE (28p stamps)

Astrophotography
FAS Handbook 2001 £1.00 + C5 SAE (44p stamps)
(published 2001)

FAS Handbook 2004/5 £3.50 + C5 SAE (69p stamps)
Queries are usually easier via e-mail to the Publications Secretary:
publications@fedastro.org.uk

Are You New to Astronomy?

Then the BAA 'Back to Basics' Workshop is for YOU

The aim of this event, to help everyone who has recently become interested in astronomy, learn some of the basic techniques and develop the interest to its full potential. During the day experienced people will be on hand to help answer any questions.

We have a programme of talks and practical sessions plus three retailers attending this event.

- Solar Observing - Lyn Smith
- Naked eye & Binocular observing of the Moon and Planets - Paul Money
- Simple Variable Star Observing - Karen Holland
- Touring the autumn constellations - Paul Money
- Deep Sky Observations using simple equipment - Dr Stewart Moore

The morning practical sessions will repeated in the afternoon and there will be an evening observing session for anyone who is interested - Practical demonstration of Telescopes, Eyepieces & Filters - Rother Valley Optics
Solar observations (weather permitting) - Lyn Smith & Doncaster AS.
Retailers attending are Rother Valley Optics, Aurora Books and York Meteorites.

We are also hoping to have a display of Moon Rock from P.PARC and a display by Sheffield University

This event is being held at The Regent Hotel, Regent Square, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England, DN1 2DS, Tel 01302 364 180

The cost of this event is £10.00 per head (including lunch and refreshments)
Bookings and remittance must be sent to:

The British Astronomical Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0DU

Email: office@britastro.org by 30th September 2005

Booking forms can be found on the BAA web site or can be obtained from the BAA office.

Deadlines for submission for newsletter in 2005/6:

Winter 2005/6 - 9th December 2005

Spring 2006 - 14th April 2006

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