



Southampton Astronomical Society

Founded 1924

News Letter for January 2002

Venue for Monthly Meetings

Society Meetings on the 2nd Thurs of each month will be held in:-
Seminar Room, Physics and Astronomy Building 46, Floor 5
University of Southampton unless stated otherwise.

Programme of Events

All meetings commence at 7-30 pm

Club Evenings and Observing Meets:- Maps to venues are available at meetings or from the Secretary.

First Thursday Every Month	Observing Evening, Out of Town Centre in Beaulieu Contact John Thompson to confirm event is on
Thurs 24 Jan	Club Evening with Gloria Bowden
Thurs 14 Feb	Victorian Alchemists and Giant Telescopes Robert Warren, Royal Observatory of Greenwich
Thurs 21 Feb	NO Observing Evening
Thurs 28 Feb	Club Evening with John Thompson 4 Heathfield, Hythe. 023 80 842531
Thurs 14 Mar	Our Vital Moon Robin Gorman, Hampshire Astronomical Group
Thurs 21 Mar	NO Observing Evening

**Fri 22 Mar "What's Up Up There?" 7-30 pm to 10 pm.
at the Out of Town Centre, Beaulieu.**

This will be an Astronomical Evening for members of the general public, organised by the Countryside Education Trust, with the astronomical content provided by the Society. It follows on from the successful event held last October, but is aimed more at beginners in astronomy. There will be a chance to look at the Moon, Jupiter and Saturn, etc through telescopes and learn about the constellations, planets, and the formation of the Solar System.

Entrance by ticket, £4 adults, £3 children (8 to 16) inc light refreshments. Tickets from Out of Town Centre 01590 612401.

Thurs 28 Mar Club Evening with Jill Wallbanks

Thurs 11 Apr Apollo Moon Landings

Phil Parker. Phil is a collector of extremely rare Space items which he is bringing to the meeting.

Thurs 18 Apr Observing Evening with Lilian Hobbs

Thurs 25 Apr Club Evening with John Eckstein

Thurs 9 May Sunspots and how they affect our lives

Geoff Kirby, Wessex Astronomical Society

Thurs 23 May Club Evening with Ron Deane

Thurs 13 Jun Short Talks by Members

4 – 6 Oct

Birr Castle and Whirlpool Star Party,

If you would like to go please contact Lilian who is making the arrangements. Book early to secure a flight from Southampton.

Contributions for the Journal

It is never too late to contribute something for the journal, please send them to Lilian Hobbs. How about some letters to the editor, stir things up, say what you like and don't like about the Society.

Magazines & Library Books

Don't forget that at every meeting there are magazines and library books available for members to take away. Please do not forget to sign the book if you take an item, there is no charge and loan period is normally one month.

New Telescope

The society now owns a Meade ETX-60 computerised telescope, complete with a finder and computer cable and software. This is a GOTO telescope complete with an Autostar unit for finding objects. These telescopes were being sold off in the US at a huge discount. If you wish to borrow this telescope, contact Michael Hobbs.

Meeting Reports

Report on Meeting on 8 Nov 2001

Jeff Higgins chaired the meeting and there were 22 members and visitors present, with 5 apologies for absence.

Joe Kaplonek gave an illustrated talk entitled "Five Comets and a Funeral".

Joe took us through his comet observing career, beginning with Halley in 1986, continuing via Hyakutake in 1995/6, Hale-Bopp in 1996, Linear in 2001, and ending up to date with McNaught-Hartley in 2001. As well as describing the comets, he showed us some excellent photos of these comets.

His observing and imaging equipment evolved over the years from basic telescope and camera, followed by a home made equatorial wedge for camera guiding, then CCD cameras, and finally his latest computer controlled telescope and CCD camera, with computer processed images and an animated sequence with the comet moving against the stellar background.

A subtle touch was the way in which his method of displaying his comet pictures also evolved. For the early comets he used a slide projector and finger to point with, then progressed to a metal pointer, then a laser pointer and finally a computerised data projector for the latest pictures.

The funeral, which Joe did not attend, was that of George Alcock, the doyen of British comet and novae hunters. Joe had actually seen him at a BAA meeting in 2000.

Report on Meeting on 13 Dec 2001

Ian Gore chaired the meeting. There were 22 members present and 3 visitors.

This evening was the annual film show where Blue Planet was shown which was views of the earth taken from the Shuttle. The evening concluded with the Christmas raffle, drinks and some nice things to eat.

Report on Meeting on 10 Jan 2002

Ian Gore chaired the meeting. There were 21 members present and 2 visitors.

The speaker this evening was Lilian Hobbs whose talk was called Space, Astronomy 7 Hollywood. Using clips from TV and films, Lilian showed us how Astronomers are viewed by Hollywood (they all seem to eat pizza at the telescope) and what Hollywood thinks will happen when items like meteorites hit the planet.

Addresses

Society Web Page:- <http://home.clara.net/lmhobbs/sas.html>

President:

Ian Gore

Secretary:

Lilian Hobbs

Treasurer/Membership Sec

Michael Hobbs

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Directions to New Venue

From **Burgess Road (A35)** traffic lights, enter **University Road**

Take **first Right** into **Salisbury Road**

At end of Salisbury Road turn **Left** into **access road**

At end of this road **Physics and Astronomy Building 46** is on your left with large car park

Enter building, take lift or stairs to **level 5 (top floor)**

Turn **Right**, **Seminar Room** is at **end of corridor**