



**Southampton
Astronomical
Society**

Founded 1924

Journal

October 2004

Next Meeting October 14th -Prof Ian McHardy - "Black Holes"

Programme of Events

All meetings commence at 7-30 pm . Please note we're now attempting to start promptly!

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

First Thursday Observing Evening, Out of Town Centre in Beaulieu

These meetings are not being held at the moment. Watch out for announcements at Society meetings and in the next Newsletter

Third Thursday Observing Evening, Lilian Hobbs'

Depends on availability - please contact Lilian

Programme

Thurs 14th Oct Prof Ian McHardy - "Black Holes"

Thurs 28th Oct Club Evening with Neil Gwilym

Thurs 11th Nov Gerald Ponting - "Stone Circles"

Thurs 25th Nov Autumn BBQ at Lilian Hobbs'

Thurs 9th Dec Film Show & American Supper

Please note - there is no club meeting in December!

Thurs 13th Jan 2005 An opportunity for us to get to grips with the new equipment the Society has bought.

Venue for Monthly Meetings

Meetings on the 2nd Thurs of each month are held in:-

Seminar Room, Physics and Astronomy Building 46, Floor 5 University of Southampton unless stated otherwise.

Directions:-

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

OR

From The Avenue, turn into Highfield Av, then take 2nd left into Hawthorn Road.

At end of Hawthorn Road turn left into Chamberlain Road, then right into University car park beside Physics and Astronomy Building 46

Addresses

Society Web Page:- <http://www.southampton-astronomical-society.org.uk>

President:
Lilian Hobbs

Secretary:
Ian Gore

Treasurer / Membership Sec:
Michael Hobbs

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Committee Report

for 2003-2004

September 11th 2003

Jeff, the retiring President, gave his talk "Astronomical Reminiscences", in which he described some of his early experiences in astronomy.

October 9th 2003

The main speaker for the evening was Andy Lound who gave his presentation on "Mars Odyssey".

November 13th 2003

Neil Bone made a welcome return as guest speaker to talk about aurora.

December 11th 2003

Speakers were from the committee, presenting their particular interests.

Ian Gore spoke about choosing a telescope.

Lilian Hobbs explained about the care and applications of eyepieces.

Neil Gwilym talked about navigating your way around the sky by starting from the Plough

John Thompson explained the use of aids to navigate the sky.

After the break Ian showed the construction of a Dobsonian telescope

January 8th 2004

The January meeting was opened by Lilian who welcomed everyone to the 80th anniversary meeting.

Members spoke about the history of the SAS:

Michael Hobbs explained how the Society's formation followed the publishing of letters in the local paper in 1922.

Lilian Hobbs described her early attendances at SAS meetings at a tender age.

George Miller explained how he had originally joined in 1969.

Les Golding's first recollection of star gazing was at age 5.

John Thompson's initial interest in astronomy had originated from a school telescope in an observatory at which a teacher had previously worked in Leningrad observatory.

After the talks, Lilian and the organisers produced a selection of drinks and edibles by way of celebration. A toast to the Society's future was celebrated.

February 12th 2004

The guest speaker was another old friend - Jeff Geary and his talk was titled "Astronomy down under".

March 11th 2004

The March meeting was opened by Lilian, and news of John Thompson's illness was reported with concern. Hopes were expressed for an improvement to his health.

Lilian welcomed guest speaker Ian King whose subject "Wide-field imaging" was of great interest to many members.

April 8th 2004

Lilian opened the April meeting and formally announced the sad news of the recent death of John Thompson. She explained how significant John's presence has been to the Society for many years. His record of achievement was remarkable!

Neil Gwilym spoke about "Holes in the Sun"; the search for coronal holes became his third year degree project back in the 1970s.

May 13th 2004

Guest speaker George Sallitt presented his talk on web-cam imaging.

June 10th 2004

The meeting was chaired by Gloria Bowden due to Lilian having been taken ill. Wishes were expressed for her speedy recovery.

Dr Helen Walker of Rutherford Appleton Laboratory was welcomed. Dr Walker's talk was titled "Observing Star and Planet

Formation". Her studies had been based on original data from the Infra-Red Astronomical Satellite that operated in 1983, and later satellites.

July 8th 2004

The July meeting is reserved for speakers from the Society - Ian Gore and Lawrence Harris this year.

Lawrence's talk was titled "I can see for miles", (a record title from the 1960s track by The Who). The talk was based on an imaginary journey from his telescope, via the planets, comets, sun, stars, galaxies, nebulae and finally a quasar.

Ian's talk was in response to a question raised after one of his previous talks and was in two distinct parts - the first dealt with Sir Arthur Eddington's 1919 expedition to Principe to make eclipse observations in support of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. The second part of the talk was an attempt to answer the question "what do we mean when we say the universe is flat", and dealt with the history of non-Euclidean geometry and the parts played by Gauss, Bolyai and Lobachevski.