



**Southampton
Astronomical
Society**

Founded 1924

Newsletter

June 2005

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

See First Article Over Page

Next Meeting June 9th - Dr Lynne Moran - "Gamma-Ray Bursters"

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 Friday Observing Evening, Out of Town Centre in Beaulieu

These meetings are no longer being held as Society events - members are still welcome to attend though

Third Thursday Observing Evening, Lilian Hobbs'

Depends on availability - please contact Lilian

Programme

Thurs 9th June	Dr Lynne Moran - "Gamma-Ray Bursters"
Thurs 23rd June	Club Evening with Ian Gore
Thurs 14th July	Ian Bagshaw - "Celestial Navigation"
Thurs 28th July	Club Evening with Ron and Dorothy Deane
August	There is no society meeting in August!
Thurs 25th Aug	Club Barbeque Evening with Michael Hobbs
Thurs 8th Sept	The John Thompson Memorial Lecture - Dr Lilian Hobbs "Observing the Lunar 100"

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:
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VERY IMPORTANT!!

Possible Venue Change

Lilian Hobbs - President

Those of you that attend the meetings at the University will be in no doubt of the problems we have been experiencing. With the introduction of the new security system, access to the building has proved difficult. Although we tried various measures such as a bell and people, nothing really seemed to work. You may be asking why we remained at the University and didn't look for an alternative venue before and the reason is simple, new venues are extremely hard to find that we can afford and the University is an ideal central location.

Very few people came to the May meeting and the University have changed the security system again so that you need a card key to get in and out. Therefore I decided to resolve the venue problem once and for all. I contacted the University and their security officer was extremely helpful, but unless we could get the Physics department to book security and pay for it and then charge us, which is a lot of admin for them, we would have to pay the going rate which is around £200 a night.

I spent over 2 weeks calling around and visiting any venue in the Southampton area that I could think of. I contacted various hotels, church halls and they were either too expensive, around £100+ a night or not available for a regular booking. Then it was suggested to me that we look at the Edmund Kell Church Hall in Bellevue Road which is at the top of London Road, close to the Law Courts. An application has been submitted to the church and we are awaiting confirmation from the committee that our booking has been accepted.

They are offering us the chapel upstairs (it looks more like a large meeting room). It seats 50 people (nice chairs) and has a microphone and loop system. We can still provide refreshments, but not in the chapel and if you come late there is a bell on the door you can ring, which works!. Only it is recommended that we keep the door locked once the meeting has started. Parking is available either on the street or in a very close council car park. All are free in the evening. We will have keys to the building so we can easily get in and out and not have to rely on a caretaker.

Many organizations meet at this venue including the Royal Horticultural Society and I hope that you will all like the new venue. I know that some people have expressed concern about its location, but this is actually not a bad part of Southampton and I can think of many other places in town where I would not want to meet. Our aim is to move for the Septem-

ber meeting, so once we have confirmation from the church, a letter will be sent to all members with full details and maps.

We cannot continue to use the University, so our options are either to find a new venue, increase the subscription by a huge amount to cover the new room hire charges or fold. I hope you will agree that this is the best solution. If you know of anywhere better to meet which we can afford, in the centre of Southampton, please let me know.

Skittles Evening 31st March

Ian Gore



It's a rare pleasure when the books balance, but the evening started well with all monies paid on time and no arguments over who ordered what! After that it just had to be our day as we took on Andover AS in one of our occasional skittles matches. For a while it was touch and go but cometh the hour, cometh the man, and our hero this time was John (pictured left), who managed a stunning 16 with 3 balls! Despite some interesting attempts by Andover to claim victory by introducing new ways of counting, SAS were worthy winners with a score of 284 to 275

Congratulations to Paula and John

Not content with being man of the skittles match, John married Paula Kirk at Eling Church on 30th April. Congratulations to you both!

The Society Needs You - Can You Help?

Lilian Hobbs

Societies like this only exist thanks to the time given by a few of the members who organize everything. September sees the start of our new year and we are looking for volunteers to help run the society. Can you help? There are lots of jobs to do and we need you. If you have some free time and would like to help please contact Lilian on 02380 263319 or email me@lilianhobbs.com Just remember that without those volunteers there wouldn't be a meeting to attend!

Society Meeting

10th Feb 2005

Southampton University have provided us with many speakers over the years, and this time it was Dr Christian Kaiser, talking about "The Search for Extra-Solar planets". Christian talked about the different technique that can be employed to find them. Radial velocity measurements have proved the most successful. A star with a planet will orbit the barycenter, and doppler measurements will show the star to be wobbling. Planets have been found this way, but they are very large and very close to their stars - quite unlike the planets in our own solar system.