

Federation of Astronomical Societies



fedastro.org.uk

Editor: Michael Bryce

Newsletter

No 142: February 2025

Note: The FAS Council Reserves the Right to publish articles, events and reports submitted to the FAS Newsletter

*Cover Image: IC434 Horse Head Nebula
Image Credit: Stewart Cumbers
Member of Plymouth Astronomical Society
See Page 4*

President

Clare Lauwerys

president@fedastro.org.uk

Treasurer

Pat McEvoy
77 Binstead Road
Portsmouth
PO2 7PJ

treasurer@fedastro.org.uk
07729 696832

Secretary

John Stapleton

secretary@fedastro.org.uk

Editor

Michael Bryce
Carolian AS & Bromsgrove AS
49 Cortland Way
Stourport-on-Severn
Worcestershire
DY13 8NZ

newsletter@fedastro.org.uk
07821 896304

President's Spot:

Clare Lauwerys



Hello again! Michael, the FAS Newsletter Editor, has reminded me it's time for my second President's Spot; it's come around very quickly. I now know how the NEAS Chair feels when I prod him for something for our monthly newsletter. (I'm allowed to prod him as we are married to each other!)

I hope you are all looking forward to National Astronomy Week (1–9 February).

I've just taken a look at the events map on <https://astronomyweek.org.uk/> and I can see so much going on up and down the country. If you've organised something and it's not on the map you can quickly fix this by popping the details in the form here <https://astronomyweek.org.uk/submit-your-event-for-national-astronomy-week/>.

The media has already leapt on the so called "Parade of Planets" but as I said in an email to societies, it's free publicity and we can use this to promote astronomy and get more people involved. South Downs Astro have already had their regional TV contact them and film a piece about the Wolf Moon and the parade. From bits I did during Covid about being immunosuppressed, I have contacts with the local BBC radio so I'm penciled in for a slot on their morning show. I say penciled in as if something BIG happens, I might get bumped. Fingers crossed it's otherwise a slow news day.

My own society was contacted before Christmas by one of the local papers wanting to do a short piece about an upcoming event we were running. As I could see the clouds on the horizon, I promised them something for when the weather was looking better. After I write this, I'll be finishing up an email to them as I've already got them interested in National Astronomy Week. As an aside, how many of you use the free listings in your local papers to promote your events? I am a HUGE fan of the word free. I use <https://evvnt.com/> and only ever use the

free option. It definitely works as people have told me that's how they found out about an event I've put on it.

Beyond National Astronomy Week, there are a couple of eclipses to look forward to. On 14 March there's a total lunar eclipse and on 29 March there's a partial solar eclipse. You probably won't want to organise a public event for the lunar eclipse give the time – that's more of a set the alarm and head for your own garden thing, but the partial solar eclipse is on a Saturday and at a much more reasonable time of day. It goes without saying that the media will be excited about these. Possibly too excited but that's better than indifference.

Going off at a tangent, what are your top tips for anyone thinking about setting up an astronomy group? I recently had an enquiry about how to do it and while the FAS website mentioned a document about how to set up and run one, I was unable to find it. No one on the FAS council could recall ever seeing it, but if you know better, please get in touch. There is a document about growing your society and of course many of the points apply. (If you want a copy it's in the member section within Membermojo).

Fortunately, I know a society that set up reasonably recently and so I've been able to connect the enquirer with them – big



Image Above: What are your top tips for setting up and running an astronomy club?

shout out to Steve from Thaxted AS – but it would be good to have a document of all the points to consider and some handy tips. If you'd like to use your experience to produce such a thing, I would love to set up a group to work together. Having a range of societies sharing their knowledge will mean we can include a range of views; after all what works for one may not be good for another. I should probably insert some sort of cliché here about teamwork, but I'll let you do that for yourselves.



Image Left: Astronomer: "Come look, I finally got my telescope setup!" Clouds: "Allow us to introduce ourselves"



FAS Convention 2025

Jerry Stone

Save the date!

The FAS 2025 Convention - Saturday, 17 May

This event will take place at The Institute of Astronomy, which is to the north-west of Cambridge at the Madingley Rise Site, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA. It is just over 3 miles from Cambridge station, about 30 minutes by bus.

Doors will open at 9 am, with the programme running from 10am to 6pm.

There will also be conducted tours of the IoA during the lunch break.

We plan to have a variety of speakers looking at astronomy past, present and future.

Thanks to the generosity of the IoA we are not being charged for the venue.

There will be some costs, but we intend to offer the tickets for FAS members for the low price of £10 per person, £5 for under-16's, £20 for families (plus bookings fee). Public tickets will be made available in due course, if space permits.

To keep costs down, we are asking you to bring your own lunch.
We will provide hot & cold drinks and biscuits.

Tickets are limited to 150 places, so book early. They will be available to FAS members soon - watch the website.

There will also be exhibitors, and societies may have a display table.

The Council looks forward to welcoming you to this event.

Meetings Organiser
Jerry Stone

FAS President
Clare Lauwerys

Readers' Images

Stuart Cumbers

My name is Stewart Cumbers and I am a member of Plymouth Astronomical Society. I have been doing deep space imagery for about 14 months. Here are some of my recent images.

Equipment used for all images:

William Optics Redcat 51
ZWO ASI 533mc Pro camera
Skywatcher EQM-35 pro mount
ZWO ASI 120mm guide camera
ZWO ASI Plus
ZWO Electronic Automatic Focuser
Optolong Dual-Band L-eXtreme 2" Filter

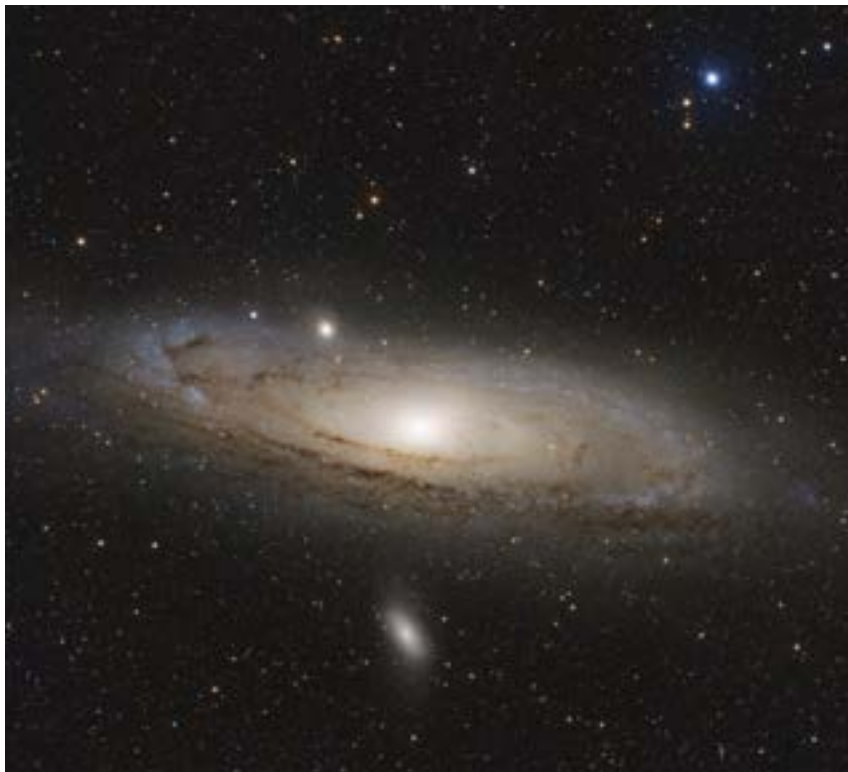
All images were stacked and processed in Pixinsight.

Image Right: M31 Andromeda Galaxy

Image Below: IC434 Horsehead Nebula

Image Below Right: M45 Pleiades

Stuart Cumbers



Solar Glasses for the March 2025 Partial Solar Eclipse



Image Above: The path of the Moon as it passes in front of the Sun on 29 March 2025, as viewed from Darlington, UK

Astronomy enthusiasts in the United Kingdom are in for a celestial treat this March as a partial solar eclipse graces the skies. This rare and awe-inspiring event offers a moment to connect with the cosmos and witness one of nature's most mesmerising phenomena. To make the experience accessible to as many people as possible, three remarkable organisations are joining forces to distribute solar viewing glasses across the country, ensuring safe and enjoyable viewing for everyone.

When and what to expect

On 29 March 2025, the Moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, partially obscuring the Sun's disk from view. Across the UK, skywatchers will see varying degrees of coverage, depending on their location. The eclipse will occur in the hours before midday, so be prepared to step outside and look up for a few magical moments.

While it won't be a total eclipse, the partial coverage will still provide an extraordinary opportunity to observe the Sun's interaction with the Moon and the intricate dance of the two celestial bodies in our solar system.

Making the eclipse accessible: a collaborative effort

The upcoming eclipse is not only a chance to marvel at the wonders of the universe but also an opportunity to foster community and learning. Thanks to the efforts of Astronomers Without Borders, First Light Optics, and Go Stargazing, 75,000 pairs of solar glasses will be made available across the UK to ensure people can safely observe this event.

Please fill in the form at the bottom of this web page to order your Eclipse Glasses at a very reasonable cost:

<https://gostargazing.co.uk/solar-glasses-for-the-march-2025-partial-eclipse>

<https://astronomerswithoutborders.org>

<https://www.firstlightoptics.com>

<https://gostargazing.co.uk>



Bath Astronomers: trying new things

Simon Holbeche

Bath Astronomical Society was born 49 years ago and like many societies, had its ups and downs in terms of membership and energy. From 10 members 8 years ago, Bath Astronomers have grown to over 140 members thanks to the effort and energy of its many volunteers. Back then, there were fears it might evaporate, and several societies nearby have closed their doors. So, is there anything else we can attribute the newer, more resilient, more flexible and more diverse society to, other than the great people in the coordination team and the volunteers?

Yes, but we probably can't pin it down to just one thing. Firstly, we embraced partnership and sharing with other local organisations such as Bath Preservation Trust, Bath Abbey, the American Museum and Gardens, University of Bath, English Heritage and the National Trust, and have become the Go To gals & guys for touching the night sky in the area. Secondly, we turned the dial up to 11 on outreach, offering visits to schools and young peoples' organisations for stargazing and talks/workshops as well as developing the Discover Astronomy Loan Box resource schools can borrow to work through in their own time. Our latest initiative involves introducing local schools to the training of Dr Rosemary Coogan as she prepares to be our UK astronaut. It is based around life-sized cut-outs of Rose that stay with the schools. Thirdly, we improved the offering to members with a programme of events over the full year and monthly talks

by external speakers at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy and Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, free loan equipment for beginners and intermediates, WhatsApp groups for particular interests, membership cards, a fuller monthly newsletter, online membership renewal, online ticketing of events, and organised visits to astro events/facilities. Finally, we looked outwards with a relentless smorgasbord of social media posts, public email news updates, stalls at community events and fetes, and both scheduled and pop-up public solar and stargazing at family friendly times and easily accessible places.

In 2025, we'll continue to look at the great ideas of other astronomical societies, steal some, and see how we can share locally with Bristol Astronomical Society, Cardiff Astronomical Society, Somerset Levels Stargazers, StarQuest Astronomy Club, Wells and Mendip Astronomers, and Wiltshire Astronomical Society as well as nationally via Go Stargazing and initiatives like National Astronomy Week and British Science Week.

Bath Astronomers meet up on the last Wednesday of each month at the Bath Literary and Scientific Institution, 16-18 Queen Square, Bath. Doors open 7pm for a 7:30pm start. We're looking forward to the following talks up to the summer:

Wed 26 February

Mike Foulkes – Saturn

Wed 26 March

Hugh Allen – the life and work of Sir William Huggins

Wed 30 April

Dr Meganne Christian – A career to achieving the role of UKSA Reserve Astronaut

Wed 28 May

Prof. Gemma Attrill – Space Weather

Wed 25 June

Members' talk night

Contact Bath Astronomers

Email: hello@bathastronomers.org.uk

Society Website: <https://bathastronomers.org.uk>

STEM Website: <https://stem.bathastronomers.org.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BathAstronomers>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/bathastronomers>

BlueSky <https://bsky.app/profile/bathastronomers.org.uk>



Image Above: Bath Astronomers Solar Popup, April 2024

Image Credit: Simon Holbeche



Stratford-Upon-Avon Astronomical Society

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesday at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a club night, in February that will be on 4th February and the speaker on the third Tuesday 18th February 2025 will be Chris Woodhouse, an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society with a talk on astrophotography. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Circumpolar Stars

When trying to learn the different stars and constellations, a good place to start is with stars that are visible all year round. These are called the Circumpolar stars. These vary on how far north (or south), you are. In Britain we have 5 circumpolar constellations.

One of the most famous stars (obviously) is the Pole star, otherwise known as Polaris or the North Star. A lot of people believe it to be the brightest star in the night sky, however it's actually the 48th brightest star. Its importance is its position, almost directly over the geographic North Pole.

One way to find it, is by using the Plough. Most people know where the Plough is (another Circumpolar asterism and part of the Ursa Major constellation). You'll find the two pointer stars (Merak and Dubhe) on the right of the 'bowl'. Move up 2 ½ times their distance apart, to arrive at the Pole star. With binoculars, you may see a ring of paler stars, these are called the Diamond Ring or Engagement Ring.

If you continue on across the sky you will come to the 'W', which is Cassiopeia. From there it is possible to find the Andromeda Galaxy and the Double Clusters, (but that's for another month's notes).

En route, from the Pole star you will cross a (childish shaped) house constellation, called Cephus. Halfway across its base, (and slightly down) is

a red star, the Garnet star, it is one of the largest stars, a red giant and in its last throws of life. To give an idea of its size, if it was to replace our sun, it would stretch out to Saturn's orbit.

Club nights offer more information on what to look out for each month. If it is clear we do some observing just outside the Village Hall, so please join us. There is no charge initially to come along and find out more, but if you do want to become a member then the fee is just £15 a year and it's free if you are in full time education. For more details go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chair John Waller john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

Happy Observing!

Adrian Wakeham
Stratford-Upon-Avon Astronomical Society
<http://www.astro.org.uk>

Editors Note: To illustrate the wonderful effect Circumpolar Stars have on long exposure photographs please see the image on the next page kindly supplied by Astrophotographer Mary McIntyre.

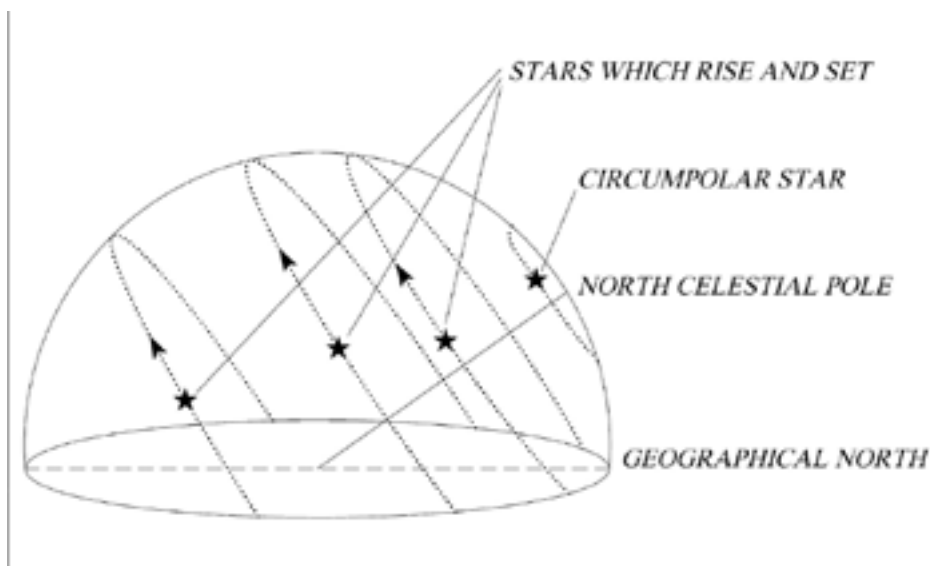


Image left: This diagram illustrates circumpolar stars.

Image Credit: Stackexchange
<https://stackexchnage.com>



To illustrate Circumpolar Stars through the night Astrophotographer Mary McIntyre has kindly allowed us to use one of her excellent Star Trail images. This one is a 12-hour Image taken from Mary's home in Oxfordshire. The camera was a Canon 1100D with either an 18-55mm lens.

Image Credit: Mary McIntyre



Space Oddities!

Explore the Universe with Space Oddities! What do **you** want to know about the Universe?

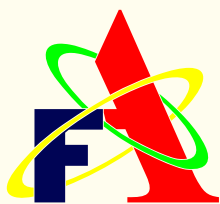
Whatever it is, whether about the solar system, stars, black holes, galaxies or anything else, you can discover it with us! We create videos on a wide range of subjects, designed to tell you the facts in a way that everybody can understand. We also livestream weekly, where you can meet the team behind Space Oddities - an international group of astronomy educators from the UK, Spain, the US and Canada - and watch our presentations and discussions on anything related to astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology and the exploration of space, as well as the very latest space news. We also cover major space launches and other events live.

Our passion is to tell **everybody** about their Universe and its wonders!
Come and explore the Universe with us!

If it's happening in space... it's happening on Space Oddities!

Visit our New Web site at

<http://spaceoddities.space>



Fordingbridge Astronomers Messier Challenge

Weather permitting, Fordingbridge Astronomers will be holding its annual Messier Challenge in the New Forest on Friday night 28 March 2025 near the village of Frogham. Further details and exact location from any of the committee at info@fordingbridgeastro.org.uk.

It's not possible to see all 110 of Charles Messier's objects from the UK but the challenge is to see as many as possible. Our record so far is 100.

Participation is free of charge and we welcome members from other astronomical societies including beginners and non-members. There is plenty of car parking and space for telescopes and imaging set ups in the dark skies of the New Forest.

Arrival time is usually around 7pm in order to set up safely in the late twilight and observing will start once it's dark, around 7:45pm. We will try to use all means possible to find M74 and M77 this year.

We will continue through the night, finishing at dawn, but there is no requirement to stay so long; feel free to go wherever you wish.

There will be a partial solar eclipse the following Saturday morning which the really committed will stay on to observe!

We look forward to seeing you in March.

Mark Hardaker
Fordingbridge Astronomers
<https://fordingbridgeastro.org.uk>



Images on this page: Fordingbridge Astronomers' Telescopes set up for a night of observing.

Images Credit: Mark Hardaker



Where Does the Future of Space Lie Within Our Schools?

David Alden BEng Hons, FCCT, FHEA, QTS, NPQSL, MIOp.

I work in education. I have spent almost 15 years in secondary schools teaching Science with the specialism of Physics at GCSE and A level and now work in higher education training science teachers. I have always had a personal interest in science, especially 'space' since I was a child, though my own educational pathway consisted of reading engineering at university; so in some ways I am a 'fake physicist'. However, my motivation to write this is to draw your attention to the crisis we currently face in education and direct effect that it will potentially have on our ability to produce suitably qualified candidates to work in the space sector.

I distinctly remember sitting in lab 109 as a 14 year old and watching a coil of wire 'magically' jump out of a horse shoe magnet when electrical current began to flow through it. What just happened? Why? It triggered a journey of discovery into the topic of electricity. However this sort of demonstration is becoming less common in school labs because of a lack of specialist teachers. In the academic year 2023/24, for every 5 Physics teachers needed, we trained less than 1. (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk, n.d.) Government strategy to improve the recruitment and retention crisis do not seem to be having the impact required for this to change. Whether it be tax-free bursaries, retention payments or pay increases ([Parliament.uk](https://parliament.uk), 2024)– the tide has still not been turned for this to improve.

The curriculum itself does not lend itself to develop an interest in space for youngsters past key stage 3 (years 7-9 in England). Earth and Space is taught in key stage 1 (year 5/6) with Space Physics being identified as a key stage 3 topic, which covers the weight equation, basics in terms of stars, galaxies, seasons on Earth and recognition of the light year as an astronomical distance. Moving into key stage 4, you only cover Space Physics if you study separate science at GCSE. I should briefly explain at this point that there are different pathways to study science at GCSE. You are taught within the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics – however you can leave with two GCSE's (tends to be known as double award) or with three GCSE's (tending to be known as separate science). Only separate science students covering extra content in comparison to 'double award' will cover material such as the lifecycle of a star, or understanding red-shift. This can also be different depending on which exam board the school opts to deliver, with 92% choosing to deliver AQA qualifications ([Aqa.org.uk](https://aqa.org.uk), 2016).

There are efforts to influence the engagement in space science in classrooms by different organisations – one of which is the National Space Academy. A project funded by the UK Space Agency called Space to Learn has Physics Focused Masterclasses, Careers Conferences and Space Camps organised for 11-18 year olds (National Space Centre, 2018). There are plenty of others and all are trying to increase interest in space to improve growth in our space sector. Entries in A level physics have increased across the UK over the last six years by +10.7% ([Ffteducationdatalab.org.uk](https://results.ffteducationdatalab.org), 2018). In England, since 2017, A-Level grades in A level science have been determined solely by performance in examinations. A student's practical skills are assessed by teachers, resulting in a practical endorsement (pass/

fail) which does not contribute to their A-Level grade, so there are 'green shoots' in terms of increasing interest in Physics.

So where do we stand moving forward? Well, since Labour took office in May 2024, they published in September 2024 an open call for evidence to improve the curriculum. This closes late November and will no doubt influence a refreshment to the National Curriculum, the latest version being introduced September 2014 (Department for Education, 2014). If we can see space content covered by all different syllabus, irrespective of double award or separate science at GCSE level, this would help widen the audience of students being introduced to the wonders of space. Equal to that, we must attract more people to the teaching profession who are suitably qualified to deliver Physics in the classroom.

David Alden BEng Hons, FCCT, FHEA, QTS, NPQSL, MIOp.

d.allden2@wlv.ac.uk

[@MrAldenSci](https://twitter.com/MrAldenSci)

Links

<https://nationalspaceacademy.org/space-to-learn/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/space-related-educational-resources/space-related-educational-resources>

References

Aqa.org (2016). AQA – education charity providing GCSEs, A-levels and support. Available at: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/>.

Department for Education (2014). National Curriculum. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>.

Explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk. (n.d.). Initial Teacher Training Census, Academic year 2023/24. Available at: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/initial-teacher-training-census/2023-24>.

Ffteducationdatalab.org.uk. (2018). GCSE and A-Level results analysis - FFT Education Datalab. Available at: <https://results.ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/a-level/physics.php>

National Space Centre. (2018). National Space Academy | UKSA Space to Learn. Available at: <https://nationalspaceacademy.org/space-to-learn/>.

Parliament.uk. (2024). Education Committee publishes report on teacher recruitment, training and retention - Committees - UK Parliament. Available at: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/203/education-committee/news/201461/education-committee-publishes-report-on-teacher-recruitment-training-and-retention/>.



Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society

Forthcoming Meetings

Our meetings are every Thursday at Mexborough Church Hall, S64 0ER. All of our weekly meetings are broadcast via Zoom as well as “live” in the meeting hall.

Tickets available at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/manage/collections/814679/events>

Meeting Programme December 2024 - January 2025

5 December

Maire Gorman: “Pretty aurora and dangerous flares”

12 December

Martin Braddock: “Astronaut Health in Space”

9 January

Martin Hendry: Listening to Einstein’s Universe
The Dawn, and Exciting Future, of Gravitational-Wave Astronomy

16 January

Dr Susan Cartwright: Neutrinos and the mystery of the missing antimatter

23 January

Alex Hall: Exploring the Dark Universe with the Euclid Space Telescope

**Meetings held at St John’s Church Hall, 58A Church St,
Mexborough S64 0ER**

Web site: www.msas.org.uk

Mid-Kent Astronomical Society



Forthcoming Meetings

14 February

Family Space Night

If you want some fun for yourself or your children or grandchildren at the start of Half Term, then look no further than our Family Space Night! We are offering a brilliant evening which will include a beginner's guide to the night sky and displays about astronomy and space, We will have some hands on activities for the younger children from age 7 upwards. There will be plenty to occupy adults too!

28 February

Greg Smye-Rumsby: If Venus Had a Moon

The planet Venus is a fascinating world, a world that should by all accounts be a near twin of the Earth with continents and oceans undergoing seasonal changes and possessing a moon. However, the reality is very different. Its surface is completely blanketed by dense opaque cloud making observation of surface features impossible. Venus is not one of the planets favoured by most amateurs BUT what if it had a moon?

14 March

MKAS Telescope Clinic

This meeting will give MKAS members and visitors the chance to address problems that have arisen during set-up and testing of their new (and perhaps older) telescopes. They will be able to ask for telescope tips and solutions to problems from experienced MKAS Astronomers with hands-on experience with their type of telescopes.

28 March

Jan-Peter Muller - Mapping landscape features on the Earth, Moon and Mars from orbit

Prof Muller will describe how landscape features on the Earth, Moon and Mars can be mapped from orbiting satellites using AI and a virtual 3D. He will compare 3D views generated from orbit with those from the Mars2020 rover to show the potential and limitations of armchair exploration

Meetings are held at Bredhurst Village Hall from 8:00 pm
Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JZ

**Dave Merrall
Press Secretary
Mid-Kent Astronomical Society**

Please visit our website: www.midkentastro.org.uk/events



Hertford Astronomy Group

2025 Programme

(subject to change)

12 February

Quentin Stanley: The Art of (Computer) Modelling

12 March

Mike Foulkes: Eclipses

Saturday 29 March

Public Eclipse Watch

9 April

David Southwood: A Decade as an ESA Director. Celebrating Yuri's Night

14 May

Alan Heavens: Light Bending in the Sky

11 June

Jery Stone: Is Pluto a Planet?
10 Years Since New Horizons Flyby.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at:

University of Hertfordshire, Lindop Building
College Lane, AL10 9AB

Second Wednesday of the Month at 8:00 pm

More details at: hertsastro.org.uk



Loughton Astronomical Society

The Loughton Astronomical Society is the home of all things astronomical in West Essex. Guests are always welcome; just drop in to one of our Thursday meetings

February - March 2025 Meeting Programme:

06 February

Public Observing in conjunction with National Astronomy Week

Observing if clear, or scope doctor or titbits. (First Quarter Moon).

13 February

Steve Ringwood: The Argumentative Galileo - The Trials and Tribulations of a Renaissance Hero

14 February (Friday)

AstroKyds Junior Section

AstroKyds is the Junior section of the LAS. 6:30pm at St Mary's Church Hall

20 February

LAS Members: Skycamp Revisited. Photos, Videos, Anecdotes.

27 February

**Malcolm Zack and Alan Marriott
Astronomical Sketching Workshop**

02 March (Sunday)

LAS Members leading Family Public Observing and Stargazing

Join LAS members on this special weekend event looking at the night sky through binoculars and telescopes.

Sunday 2 March 6:15pm - 8:30pm at the Scout Hall.

Scope Doctor: bring your scope to get the best out of it.

Alternative programme and demonstrations if cloudy.

Entrance free.

06 March

LAS Registered Members only

57th Annual General Meeting

13 March

Dr Ben Rider-Stokes

Inferring Asteroid Mineralogy through Meteorite Investigation

14 March (Friday)

AstroKyds Junior Section

AstroKyds is the Junior section of the LAS. 6:30pm at St Mary's Church Hall

20 March

Malcolm Zack and Jonathan Daniels

Spring Skies - A view of what can be seen in the night sky with binoculars and telescopes

27 March

LAS Members leading Public Observing

Join LAS members looking at the night sky through binoculars and telescopes.

Scope Doctor: bring your scope to get the best out of it.

Alternative programme if cloudy

29 March

LAS Members Observing Partial Solar Eclipse

Join LAS members on Theydon Bois Village Green 10am - noon for this special weekend event looking at the partial (30%) eclipse with specialised solar equipment for safe viewing.

Gather near pedestrian crossing What3Words: myself.maple.voter

Please visit: las-astro.org.uk

Photo Opportunity

John Haigh-Turner

Macclesfield Astronomical Society

Image Right: I took the picture on Friday 10 January just outside my front door using a Seestar S50.

Macclesfield sits just a few miles south east of Manchester Airport and depending on wind direction gets departing aircraft zipping by or incoming aircraft circling the hills between here and Buxton.

Whilst setting up for a moon shot, I'd seen a few of those circling, when I saw a higher aircraft coming from the south appearing to make a line for the Moon.

It was United Airlines 787 flight 935 from Heathrow to Los Angeles.

I had no idea if this sort of picture was possible so just kept my fingers over the shutter (on my mobile screen) and chanced it.

I was amazed as to how little time the plane was on shot and how good it came out.

John Haigh-Turner



Photo Opportunity

Jack Martin Loughton Astronomical Society Baker Street Irregular Astronomers

Image Right: Solar Spectroscopy observing at Essex Astrofest Burnham on Crouch 21 September 2024 with 3 instruments. Coronado Solarmax 40 H Alpha, Skywatcher ST 80 white light scopes, Lihires III Spectrograph.

Image Below: Solar Spectroscopy observing at the August meeting of the Baker Street Irregular Astronomers Regent's Park hub London.

Images Credit: Jack Martin
Loughton Astronomical Society
<https://las-astro.org.uk/>
Baker Street Irregular Astronomers
<https://www.bakerstreetastro.org/>



Copy Deadline

Copy Deadline for Articles, Images etc intended for the next issue (April 2025) should be emailed to the Editor at newsletter@fedastro.org.uk

by

15 March 2025