# Federation of Astronomical Societies

Editor: Michael Bryce

# Newsletter

No 144: June 2025

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


# The 2025 FAS Convention

## Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge

## Saturday 31 May 2025


***Image Above**: FAS Convention Speakers and Organisers. Left to right: Jerry Stone (FAS Meetings Organiser); Speakers Dr Louise Devoy, Dr Matthew Bothwell, Lord Martin Rees, Simon Banton, Dr Paul A Daniels, and Clare Lauwerys (FAS President).*


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# FAS 2025 Convention Report

## Jerry Stone : FAS Meetings Organiser

**The 2025 FAS Convention was held on Saturday, 31 May, at the Institute of Astronomy, near Cambridge.**

I had previously arranged the conventions at the National Space Centre in Leicester in 2021, at the University of Oxford in 2022, and also our online convention in 2021.

I must say from the start that this event set several records, which I shall explain.

We were very fortunate that the IoA gave us the use of the venue at no charge, other than a member of staff to clean the exhibition area and lecture hall.

We obviously express our grateful thanks to the IoA, and to Matt Bothwell, who also led the tours of the site during the lunch break.

The result was that once again we were able to offer tickets to members of FAS societies at the extremely low rate of just £10 for the day. This is a great bonus as many people travel to this national event from quite far away, even though the idea behind using different venues around the UK is so there are relatively local astronomers who do not have to spend that much time or money on travel.

That said, this year we had very enthusiastic attendees, with people coming from societies in Birmingham, Mansfield, Newbury, Stratford upon Avon and Wolverhampton - each around 100 miles away; from Brighton - 120 miles, Cleethorpes at 140 miles, Huddersfield and Fordingbridge at 150 miles, Bath - 170 miles and Liverpool - 200 miles away!

Even these would have been beaten by bookings from two members of Kernow Astronomers, who meet near Truro in Cornwall*!* That's 215 miles away, Sadly they were unable to attend on the day for medical reasons.

All that makes for the first record. The IoA offered other advantages:

- Easy access by bus from Cambridge station
- The Fred Hoyle Lecture Theatre, with a capacity of 150 seats
- A multi-level exhibition area next to the lecture theatre.
- The opportunity to have tours of the site, showing some of the historic telescopes.

Altogether we had 120 bookings, which was the effective limit, as we reserved 30 places in the lecture theatre for the speakers, FAS Council members, sponsors and exhibitors.

This meant we were at capacity booking for the first time. In fact we completely sold out of tickets two weeks before the date at which we would have offered them to the public! That's the second record.

I gave a special "Thank you" to Clare at the event when I mentioned this, as she was responsible for arranging and handling the ticket bookings.

We offered everyone a range of hot and cold drinks during the day, plus biscuits and other refreshments - all at no charge.

To keep costs down, we asked attendees to bring their own lunch. They could buy food from the Sainsbury's opposite Cambridge station, or from the large Sainsbury's just 10 minutes' walk from the IoA. This arrangement also avoided any issues relating to dietary requirements.

We try to arrange sponsorship for our conventions at different levels, which allows them a display space at which they can demonstrate and sell products, and a mention on the FAS website with their logo, plus special notices sent to member societies. In addition, all the sponsors' logos were printed on A2 sheets, which were displayed throughout the day across the front of the lecture theatre.

For the first time ever, we had sponsorship at all levels - a Gold Level Sponsor - First Light Optics - two at Silver level and two at Bronze level, and that's the third record.

Not only that, but First Light Optics are registered in Exeter - 246 miles away! All the Silver and Bronze sponsors are based around 90 miles away.

The ticket sales and the sponsorship level meant that it is believed this was the most successful convention in our history.

There were also four exhibitors, giving additional income, and three organisations giving away literature. We also had a table for astronomical societies to put out literature at no charge.

We gave free adverts to "100 Hours of Astronomy", the Herstmonceux Observatory campaign, and the UK Astronomy charity. As usual, an advert space was also given to my organisation - Spaceflight UK - in return for the amount of work put into organising the convention.

The overall theme for the day was "The History of Astronomy", and we had five speakers covering different periods of time.

The first speaker was Stonehenge researcher Simon Banton, who covered the Archeoastronomy of Stonehenge.

He was followed by Dr. Louise Devoy, Senior Curator of the Royal Observatory, who told the story of the Greenwich Meridian.

Then we had Dr Matthew Bothwell, Public Astronomer at the Institute of Astronomy, who covered the invisible universe - the search for Dark Matter.



Silver Sponsors UK Radio Astronomy Association and Mission Astro

He was followed by Dr Paul Daniels, the previous President of the FAS, who looked at threats and challenges to modern astronomy.

Our final speaker was a highlight to the programme - Lord Martin Rees, The Astronomer Royal. He looked forward to the potential future for humanity.

All the presentations were highly appreciated. They each explained their subject matter in detail, but did so in a way that everyone was able to understand their subject.

We received many complimentary remarks from attendees, which was very satisfying; after all, this was the main reason for the convention.

Each of the speakers was given a certificate of appreciation to acknowledge their contribution to the event, together with a potted plant and a pack of quality biscuits.

All the speakers were able to stay to the end of the day, and were therefore able to take part in a panel discussion, where attendees had an opportunity to ask additional questions.

The FAS took three of the speakers to lunch at the local hotel's restaurant - appropriately named "The Astronomer"..

With regard to the budget for the event, the total expenses were just under £1,400, but our total income was over £2,500 which meant a positive balance of £1,100 - somewhat more than was originally expected.

This is a great bonus to the FAS and will benefit future conventions that will involve us being charged for the venue.

I made an announcement at the end of the programme that I had already done initial work on the 2026 convention.

I am looking for this to take place in Cardiff, where the highlight speaker will be Professor Mike Edmunds, a world expert on the Antikythera Mechanism.

I have also had an agreement from Mike Lockwood, who recently became the new President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

The current expectation is that the convention will be held around the end of June.

Some posts with photos were put on Facebook the day after the event. I took many photos my stills camera and my iPhone, and when I have time to go through them I shall post a selection on FaceBook and send some to Clare for inclusion on the FAS website.

**Jerry Stone FBIS FRAS**
**FAS Meetings Organiser**
**2 June 2025**

# FAS 2025 Convention

***Images on this page (In anti-clockwise order):***

*Clare Lauwerys addressing the audience*

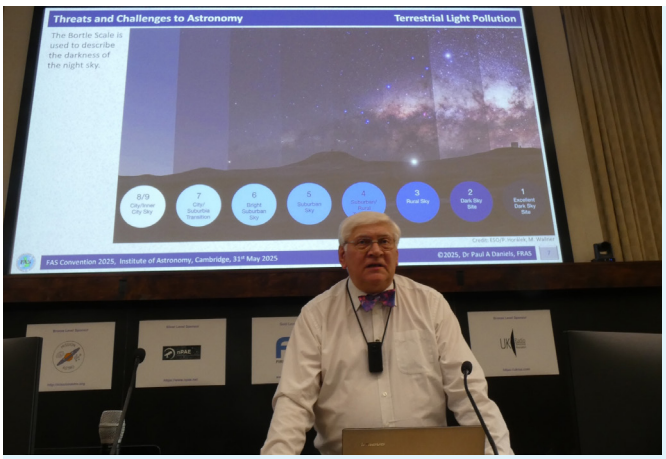
*Jerry Stone with Louise Devoy and Clare Lauwerys*

*Gold Sponsor First Light Optics*

*Jerry Stone with Lord Martin Rees and Clare Lauwerys*

*Solar Observing*




***Images on this page (in anti-clockwise order):***

*Dr Paul Daniels deliveres his presentation*

*Speaker Panel session*

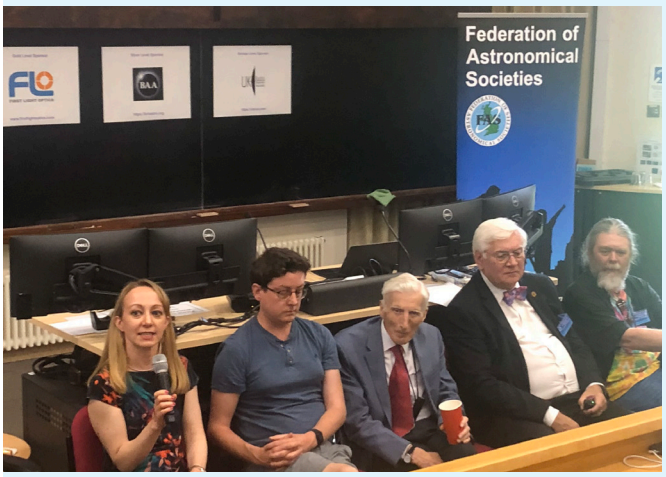
*Silver Sponsor nPae*

*Clare with Jenny Shipway (FAS Council Member) taking a break*

*Dave Eagle (FLO and Star-Gazing) chats with deligates*

*Jack Martin (Loughton Astronomical Society)*








## Bronze Level Sponsor

The **UK Radio Astronomy Association** (UKRAA) was set up in 2008 to promote the science of radio astronomical research. This is done by designing, manufacturing and selling our radio astronomy equipment for amateur astronomers.

The UKRAA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Any surplus income funds the development of new products and our outreach activities.

**Visit the website at http://ukraa.com/**

## Bronze Level Sponsor

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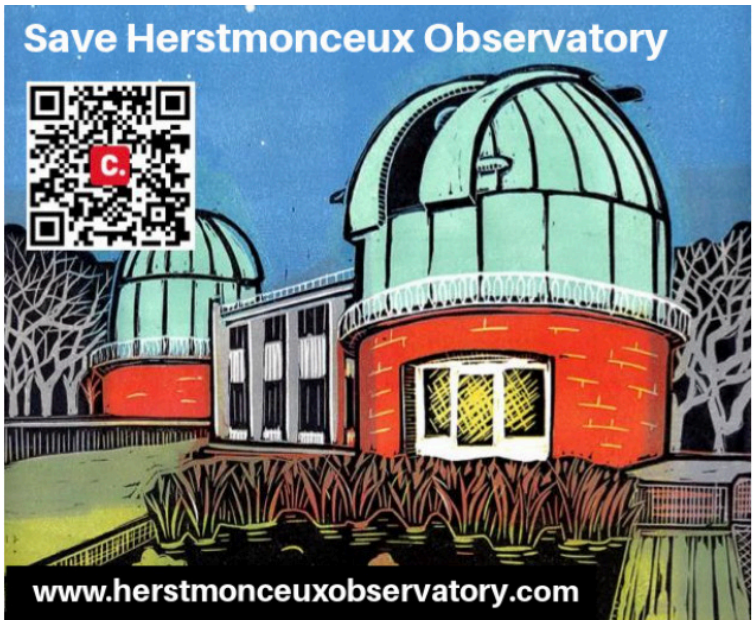



## Help save Herstmonceux

Find out more about the campaign to keep the historic observatory at Herstmonceux a UK community resource and key STEM and astronomy outreach centre.

To help the campaign, please sign the petition at :

**www.change.org/SavetheOSC**

Speaker Dr Louise Devoy recounts the history of Greenwich and the Meridian Line at the FAS Convention.

# The Society for the History of Astronomy (SHA)

## 2025 Spring Conference

## Birmingham and Midland Institute: Saturday 26th April 2025

Report by Gerard Gilligan

Forty-four members and guests of the SHA were greeted by a warm and sunny Birmingham when they gathered at the Birmingham and Midland Institute to attend our spring conference. The audience were treated to a diverse program of presentations. The Society Chair, Carolyn Kennett, first introduced Kevin Johnson, the SHA Survey co-ordinator. Kevin outlined the aims, methods and results of the Survey, the goal of which is to uncover the history of astronomy in Britain and Ireland, and to encourage research into astronomical history at the local level.

***Image Above**: The Birmingham and Midland Institute Building*
***Image Courtesy BMI website***

The online database is organised on the geographical basis of the historic counties, with separate indexes for each county. At the present time the survey contains brief descriptions of over 900 astronomers, 500 observatories, and 300 astronomy organisations. Kevin guided the delegates into the many ways in which they can make valuable additions to the survey, and indicated the local areas of the UK which are yet to be investigated fully. For example parts of Scotland have large gaps in information, and an appeal to members was made in an effort to fill in these gaps. The survey has become an excellent resource and starting point for further research into the history of astronomy. A link to the Survey can be found here: https://shasurvey.wordpress.com/

Kevin was followed by Dr Mike Lancaster, a member of Derby and District Astronomical Society. Dr Lancaster's presentation covered the early family life and pioneering astronomical achievements of the first Astronomer Royal at Greenwich, Revd. John Flamsteed (1646 – 1719). Most of these early endeavours were conducted in his home town of Derby. There were also details of the efforts by Mike and others to have Flamsteed's

***Image Above**: The former residence of the Flamsteed family at 27 Queen Street, Derby.*
***Image: © "Save our Heritage" website***

former residence at 27 Queen Street in Derby granted Grade II listing, and to restore the building, with the hope to establish a Flamsteed Science Museum for Derby. The house was built c.1670 for Stephen Flamsteed, John's father. In the late 18th century No. 27 was home to John Whitehurst, a co-founder of the Lunar Society, who is said to have entertained Benjamin Franklin here. The artist Joseph Wright, well-known for his paintings of industrial and scientific subjects, is another celebrated resident.


***Image Left**: The Blue Plaque for both John Flamsteed and Joseph Wright on the front of 27 Queen Street.*
***Image Credit: © John Scurr for Derby Civic Society***

Following the most excellent buffet lunch, provided by the BMI café, the now refreshed and refuelled delegates heard a fascinating lecture from the SHA Chair, Carolyn Kennett. Her presentation told the story of the work of Norman and Mary Lockyer in their study of the possible astronomical alignments of several stone circles and lines in Cornwall. Mary Lockyer was a Victorian astronomer and photographer who travelled with her husband Norman to many of SW Britain's stone circles. While he was making measurements to support his theories, she was taking the photos, and no doubt also discussed the sites and his ideas. Using many of Mary's

original photographs, Carolyn described the detailed survey work that the husband-and-wife team carried out on many visits to the Cornwall sites in sometimes poor weather, similar weather that Carolyn herself had experienced during her own research investigations of the same sites. Mary was more than just a companion to her Husband, and she had much of her own work published alongside that of Norman's in his Journal, Nature. They later founded the Society for the Astronomical Study of Ancient Stone monuments in Penzance.

*Image Above: Carolyn Kennett*

***Image Left**: Mary Lockyer (1852 – 1943)*

***Image from the Quilt Patch by Caroline Corkrum***

The fourth talk of the day was presented by David Strange, the current Chair of the Norman Lockyer Observatory Society. David took the meeting delegates on a historical journey into the observations of the Planet Mars, exploring the detailed observations of many Victorian era astronomers, for example W.R. Dawes, and Norman Lockyer. David also discussed in detail the story of Schiaparelli's canali and their now famous misinterpretation by Percival Lowell. Observations from many other astronomers round the world were shown; Camille Flammarion, whose observatory the SHA visited recently in Paris, was one. The talk concluded with images and observations using modern day cameras and imaging techniques.

Following David's enthralling talk, meeting delegates enjoyed a break for tea and coffee with light refreshments. The final presentation for the day was by Michal Paszkiewicz who gave this year's Michael Hoskin Lecture.


***Image Left**: Image: The Society of Catholic Scientists - Giovanni Battista Riccioli (1598 – 1671)*

Michal's lecture was on the Jesuit Priest, Polymath and Astronomer, Giovanni Battista Riccioli (1598 – 1671). The informative lecture titled "Riccioli: The Sentinel of an Unshaken World" was the story of a now relatively unknown astronomer who was famous in his day. Amazingly, his advanced textbook, Almagestum Novum, published in 1651, was still being used a teaching volume as late as the 19th century. Riccioli mapped the lunar surface and features and his names for craters and mare are those that are used today. He measured gravity with unprecedented accuracy and investigated the Coriolis effect for rotating bodies before Coriolis. Riccioli improved on the works of Kepler and Boulliau. He was also an accomplished polymath and linguist.

However, Riccioli fell out with the scientific establishment of the day when he concluded that the Earth did not move. For this reason, perhaps, his name appears infrequently in histories of science. His own theories were seen as a backwards step. He could accept a Geo-Heliocentric model, but his careful reasoning and investigation of competing theories was seen by many as an overly trusting innocence. However, his excellent volume

***Continued overleaf...***

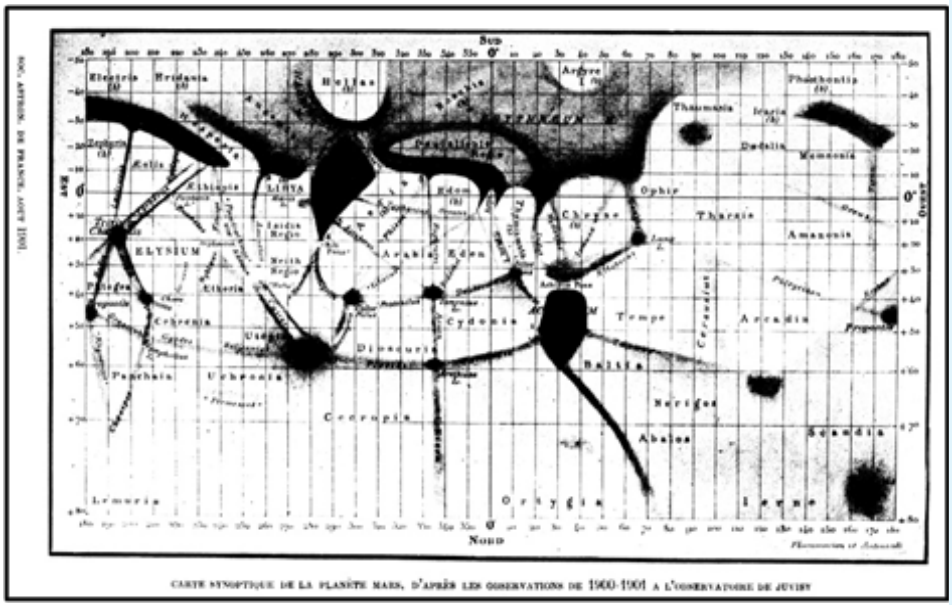



***Image Left**: A Map of the planet Mars detailing the "canali" as "seen" by Schiaparelli. Circa 1900/1901*

*Observatory in Juvisy-sur-Orge, France*

Almagestum Novum, which Michal is translating into English as a long-term project, is not just an Astronomy textbook, but a volume that established international bridges, and revived a long-forgotten rationalist approach to ancient myth. More translated volumes are yet to be published.

Following several questions from the delegates, Mike Frost brought the day to an end, with thanks to all the speakers, who, through their presentations, had enthralled and educated the audience, with a wide variety of historical subject matter. Thanks to the BMI staff and those associated with the BMI's café who very kindly made sure we were all feed and watered during the day. Appreciation to James Dawson for opening the SHA Library and book sales, and to Mike Frost and his organising skills. But special thanks to all the Society members and their guests who attended. A very enjoyable day - and more to follow with the SHA planned AGM and autumn conference, again held within the BMI, in November this year.

**Gerard Gilligan**
**Liverpool Astronomical Society**
**https://liverpoolas.org**

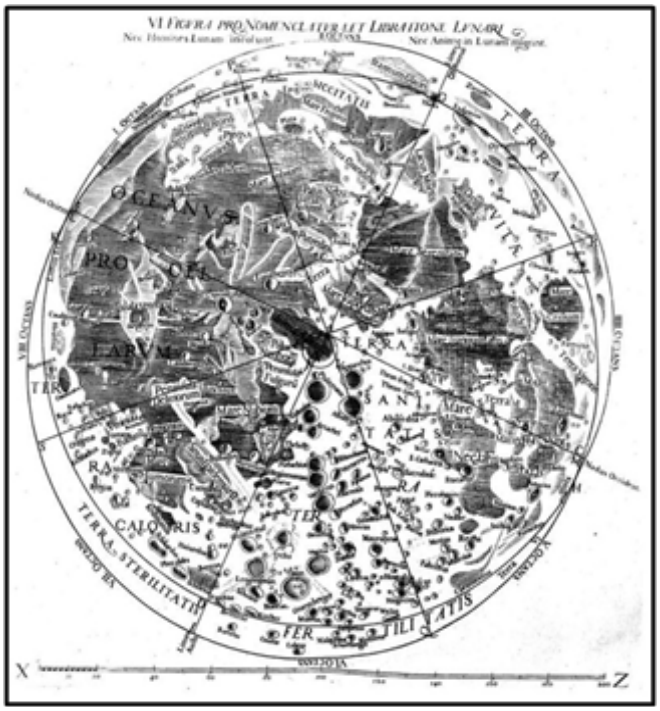



***Image Above**: Riccioli's Lunar Map from "The New Almagest" (1651)*

***Image From Wikipedia Images***

***Image Below**: The SHA Spring Conference 2025 – The Presentation by Michal Paszkiewicz*

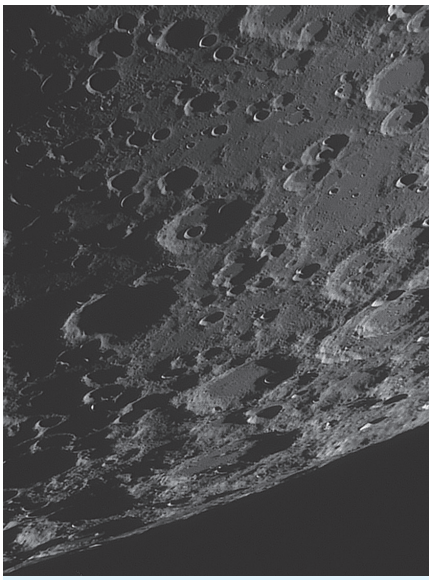
***Image Credit: G Gilligan***

# Lunar Photography

## Robert Stuart

## Newtown Astronomical Society

Robert Stuart from Newtown Astronomical Society (Powys) sent the following lunar crater images. All images taken using the following equipment: 25cm f6.3 Newtonian, ASI 174MM; 3x Televue Barlow with 850nm filter; Exp 20ms, 50fps, gain 170; SkyWatcher EQ350 Pro mount; 25% of 3000 frames stacked AS3!; Processed Registax and Photoshop.



Asciepi-Mutus

Theophilus

Catharina

# Deep Sky Photography

## Roger Howes

## Thurrock Astronomy Society

***Image Left**: M13 Globular Cluster in Hercules taken with Seestar S30*

***Image Right**: M51 Whirlpool Galaxy in Ursa Major taken with Seestar S30*

# Milton Keynes Astronomical Society Partners with BBC for Special Sky at Night Mars Feature

***Image above**: BBC Sky at Night Presenter Pete Lawrence filming at the rear of Rectory Cottages, Bletchley.*

The Milton Keynes Astronomical Society (MKAS) is pleased to announce its recent collaboration with the BBC for an episode of The Sky at Night, dedicated to exploring the planet Mars. Filming took place on Thursday, 17 April 2025 at Rectory Cottages in Bletchley, the Society's historic headquarters.

The BBC selected MKAS as a filming location in recognition of the Society's long-standing contributions to amateur astronomy and the unique character of its venue. Established in 1972, MKAS has served as a central force in promoting astronomical education and engagement throughout Milton Keynes and the wider region.

During the production, MKAS members offered extensive support, providing telescopes, technical expertise, and logistical assistance. The filming featured renowned astronomer and presenter Pete Lawrence, who led a segment on observational techniques specific to Mars. Additionally, astrophotography contributed by MKAS members was considered for inclusion in the programme, showcasing the societies talent and dedication.

Fifteen Society members were on site during filming to assist the production team and represent MKAS's commitment to public outreach. To enrich the visual environment, the Society curated a collection of astronomical posters and member-submitted photographs throughout the main hall of Rectory Cottages.

"We are honoured to be part of a programme with such a rich legacy in science communication," said an MKAS spokesperson. "This collaboration aligns with our mission to make astronomy accessible and inspire curiosity about the universe."

Rectory Cottages, the filming location, is among Milton Keynes' most historically and architecturally significant buildings. Dating back to 1475–1476 and linked to the de Grey family, the manor's original lords, the site features a rare medieval hammer-beam hall an architectural treasure.

**Milton Keynes Astronomcal Society**
https://mkas.org.uk

EUCARA 25

# European Conference on Amateur Radio Astronomy

The UK BAA Radio Astronomy Section with RAL Space are pleased to announce the

## European Conference on Amateur Radio Astronomy

Further information and registration can be found at **https://eucara.org/**

This conference will be held at the Harwell and Science Innovation Centre – 20km south of Oxford from 5 – 7 September 2025. We are delighted that **Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell** will be our keynote speaker. This event will have speakers from academia and the amateur community. There will be posters and demonstrations. The event organisers are Paul Hearn and Andrew Thomas.

For more details and registration please visit

**https://eucara.org/registration/**

## Space Oddities!

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

**Our YouTube Channel is at https://www.youtube.com/@SpaceOdditiesLive**

**Our Web site is at: http://spaceoddities.space**

# Attention Astrophotographers

## Introducing Picastro – The Ultimate social media platform only for astronomers and astrophotographers

**Picastro is a dedicated social platform built by an astrophotographer, for astrophotographers and space enthusiasts—whether you're just starting out or a seasoned expert.**

Designed to provide a safe, secure, and community-driven space, Picastro lets you showcase your astronomical images, connect with like-minded individuals, and elevate your astrophotography journey—all within a beautifully intuitive and easy-to-use app for iOS and Android, available on mobile and tablet.

With four subscription plans to choose from—and an upcoming option tailored for those who love astrophotography but don't take images themselves—Picastro ensures there's a place for everyone in the cosmic community.

## How Picastro Works

**Capture & Upload** – Easily upload high-resolution astrophotography images directly from your device, with advanced image protection to keep your work secure.

**Engage with the Community** – Like, share, and comment on breathtaking space images while connecting with astrophotographers from around the world.

**Find Your Astro Circle** – Leading Light© and StarCamps© help you discover and connect with experts, enthusiasts, and local groups based on your interests, location, and experience level.

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**Access Remote Observatories** – Picastro is expanding to welcome remote and private observatories, giving users access to professional-grade astronomical images from across the globe.

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Private Gallery Sharing – A secure way to share your incredible images with friends and family who don't use the app but love seeing your work.

Plate Solving (Coming 2025) – A simple yet powerful tool for image and object recognition, making astrophotography even more accessible.

Interactive Astro Games – Fun and engaging games designed to bring astronomy to life (Coming late 2025)

BEKAH (Launching Late 2025) – Your personal AI astrophotography assistant, helping both beginners and experts navigate the cosmos with ease.

More Than Just an App—An Ecosystem for Astrophotographers across the globe.

Picastro is more than a platform; it's a community-driven ecosystem built by an astrophotographer, for astrophotographers. Whether you're capturing your first star trails or mastering deep-sky imaging, Picastro redefines how you connect with the cosmos.

Download now on the App Store and Google Play, or visit picastroapp.com to learn more!

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Screen shots of the Picastro App are reproduced overleaf:

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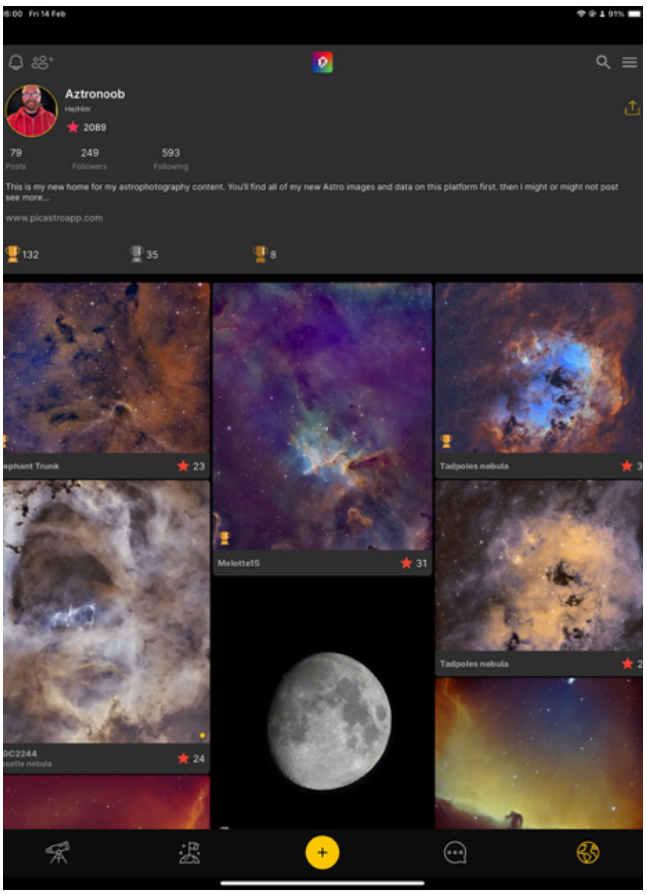
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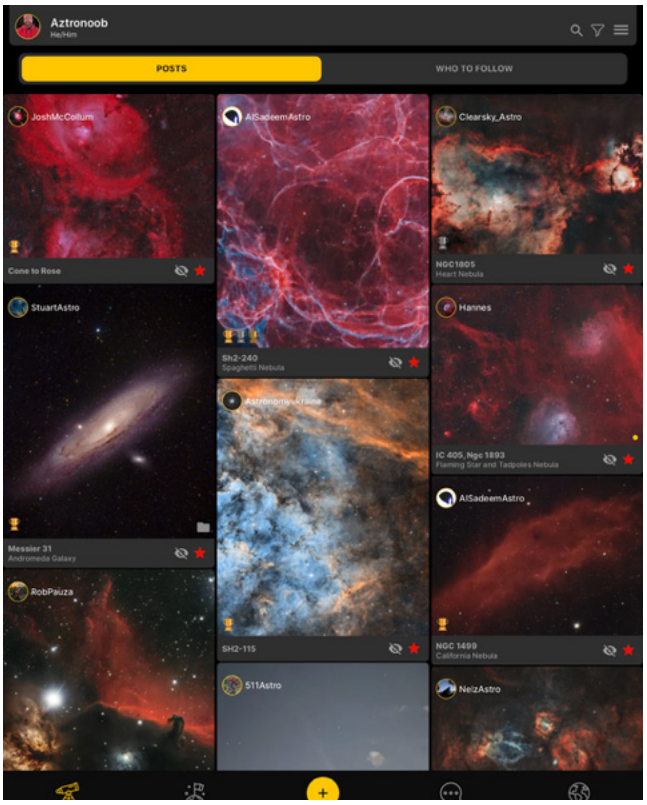
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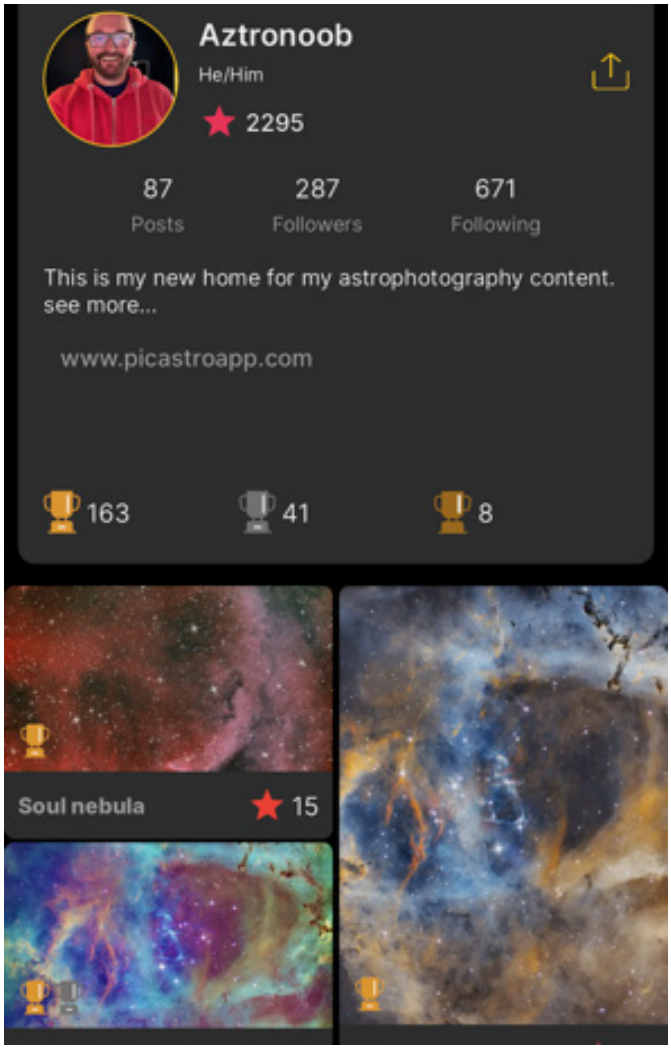
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Soul nebula
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# Stratford-Upon-Avon Astronomical Society

**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 June that will be on 3 June and the speaker on the third Tuesday 17 June 2025 will be Professor Christine Done, from Durham University, with a talk called "Black Holes – recent breakthrough results". In July the club night will be on 1st July and the speaker on the third Tuesday 15th July 2025 will be Professor David Rothery, from the Open University, with a talk called "The geology of planet Mercury". Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.**

**For more details please visit http://www.astro.org.uk/main/index.php**

# Mid-Kent Astronomical Society

## Forthcoming Meetings

All regular meetings are open to members and visitors, held on the second and last Friday of each month, except August and at Christmas, when there are no meetings. Unless otherwise stated, meetings normally open at 7:40pm for an 8pm start, finishing around 10pm. Meetings take place at Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JZ

### 13 June

**Peter Bassett - Space Island: the Isle of Wight**

Amanda and Peter have made over 100 trips to the Isle of Wight. The talk will include the island's relationship with Dr Robert Hooke (Sir Isaac Newton's associate), the local astronomical society, observatory, planetarium, dark observing sites, and history of the Black Arrow rocket that was built and tested there. Drone shots / videos of related sites and their own astronomical imaging will be included. From this July, they will operate the space section of the Wight Aviation Museum.

### 27 June

**Professor David Southwood - Electromagnetic threats from the Sun**

Our local star, the Sun, does more than twinkle in our sky. Its warmth is critical to life on our planet but as human civilisation has become more and more technologically dependent so has the Sun become to be seen as a cause for electromagnetic disruption. We'll look at some of the history and some of the actions put into place to watch for unpleasant "space weather" what is done to mitigate or avoid the effects of the star we live close to.

### 11 July

**Jeremy Phillips - Going over to the Dark Side – Remote imaging**

### 25 July

**6:00 pm - Note early start: MKAS Summer Social and BBQ**

**For more details please visit our website: www.midkentastro.org.uk/events**
**Meetings are held at Bredhurst Village Hall from 8:00 pm**

**Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JZ**
**Contact: Dave Merrall, Press Secretary**

# Liverpool Astronomical Society Visit "Helios" at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

Phil Williams


The impressive illuminated model of the Sun, "Helios" by world-renowned British artist Luke Jerram was displayed at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral from Friday 4th April to Friday 9th May 2025 and was visited by many Liverpool Astronomical Society members. The cathedral became the first venue in the world to showcase all three of Jerram's celestial artworks having previously exhibited models of the Moon in the exhibit "Museum of the Moon" and Earth in the artwork "Gaia".

The imagery for the artwork was produced using approximately 400,000 photographs of the Sun provided by amateur astrophotographer Dr Stuart Green taken between May 2018 and June 2024. The solar sphere is a composite of multiple high-resolution images of the Sun's chromosphere using a 150 mm refractor fitted with two narrowband hydrogen alpha filters passing light at 656.28 nm and a Basler acA 1920-155um monochrome camera. Computerised image processing was used with the stacking of images, image sharpening and further colour processing to produce the final images used in the globe.

Expert guidance was provided by solar scientist Professor Lucie Green of University College London who became the first female presenter of the B.B.C.'s "The Sky at Night" programme following the death of Sir Patrick Moore. Her research focusses on the atmospheric activity of the Sun and in particular coronal mass ejections and the changes in the Sun's magnetic field which trigger them. A number of Society members got the opportunity to meet and chat with Lucie when they participated in the BBC's "Stargazing Live" and when one of the L.A.S. young astronomers, Elly Williams, was interviewed by her live on the programme.

The scale of the artwork is 1:200 million with each centimetre of the impressive seven metre diameter internally lit model representing 2,000 km of the Sun's surface. At this scale the Earth would be about the size of a tennis ball with a diameter of approximately 7cm and be located at an average distance of 750 metres from the globe. A distance equating to about the distance between the two cathedrals in Liverpool.

To complement the exhibiting of Helios the cathedral curated a diverse programme of events to allow visitors to experience the installation in a variety of ways including through storytelling and talks. The artist Luke Jerram himself gave a talk about the artwork on Thursday the 17th April which was attended by some members of the Society.

The artwork gave visitors the opportunity to view a variety of solar structures on the globe including plage, spicules and filaments. The inherent risks associated with solar observation of such structures on the Sun's surface mean that such observations are undertaken by experienced astrophotographers requiring the use of sophisticated solar telescopes. Many thousands of visitors viewed the artwork during its exhibition and marvelled at the impressive model of our local star.

**Phil Williams**
**Liverpool Astronomical Society**
https://liverpoolas.org/

# Helios will next be presented in the following locations:

**6 – 10 June; 11 – 14 July:**
Osterley Park and House (National Trust), London, UK,

**9 – 21 June:**
Cork Midsummer Festival, Ireland

**31 July – 3 August; 7 – 10 August**
Charterhouse (National Trust), West Midlands, UK

**15 – 18; 22 – 25 August**
Basildon Park (National Trust), Berkshire, UK

**10 – 14 September**
Clandon Park (National Trust), Surrey, UK

**19 – 22; 25 – 28 September**
Saltram (National Trust), Devon, UK

**4 – 5; 11 – 12 October**
Fountains Abbey (National Trust), Yorkshire, UK

**17 October – 2 November**
Kedleston Hall (National Trust), Derbyshire, UK

***Image above**: The glass sculpture of the Earth shows the size of our planet in comparison to the Sun artwork.*

For more details please visit the website at

**https://my-helios.org/**

# Loughton Astronomical Society

# Forthcoming Meetings and Events

## Thursday 05 June

**Dr Aayush Saxena**
**(University of Oxford)**
How JWST broke the Universe, and fixed it again, over the last 3 years of operations

## Thursday 12 June

**Malcolm Zack and Jonathan Daniels**
Summer Skies - A view of what can be seen in the night sky with binoculars and telescopes

## Friday 13 June

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

## Thursday 19 June

**Members leading Solar Observing**
Celebrate the Summer Solstice - safe viewing of the Sun in white light and Hydrogen Alpha Titbits & Miscellany evening if cloudy

## Thursday 26 June

**LAS Members leading Solar Observing**
Another chance for safe viewing of the sun in white light and Hydrogen alpha
Titbits & Miscellany evening if cloudy

## Thursday 3 July

**Sheridan Williams FRAS**
**(Retired Rocket Scientist at Ministry of Defence)**
Mechanics of a Solar Eclipse - and where to see them in 2026 and 2027

## Thursday 10 July

**LAS Members and invited guests: BBQ at Cricket Club**

## Friday 11 July

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

## Thursday 10 July

**LAS attending Theydon Bois Donkey Derby**
Join us for solar observing, demonstrations and much more at the Theydon Bois Donkey Derby, Theydon Bois Village Green

## Thursday 17 July

**Lucy Clews**
**Undergraduate Astrophysicist**
**(University of Nottingham)**
Black Hole Jets

## Saturday 19 July

**LAS attending Theydon Bois Horticultural Society Show**
Join us for solar observing, demonstrations and much more at the Theydon Bois Village Hall CM16 7ER

## Thursday 24 July

**Jerry Stone**
**(Freelance Presenter on Astronomy and Space Exploration at Spaceflight UK)**
Island Zero - a Practical Gateway to Large-Scale Space Habitats

**For more details please visit**
**https://las-astro.org.uk/index.html**

# Scarborough & Ryedale Astronomical Society Annual 'StarFest' Star Party

## 28 August – 1 September 2025
## Adderstone Field, Dalby Forest, North Yorkshire

Scarborough & Ryedale Astronomical Society's (SARAS) annual "StarFest" star camp returns for 4 nights of stargazing and astrophotography in the wonderful surroundings of our "Milky Way" class Dark Sky Discovery Site of Dalby Forest within the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Dark Sky Reserve.

The large field at Adderstone is well drained & we can accommodate caravans, motor homes and tents.

As for previous years, we are able to accommodate early arrivals for those who have a long way to travel, and for those who wish to take advantage of an extra night on the Thursday (28 August).

Aside from the dark skies, we will have a range of talks, our annual bottle rocket building competition and of course the Astro Pub Quiz on the Sunday evening.

## REGISTRATIONS CLOSE SUNDAY 24 AUGUST 2025

**https://www.scarbastro.co.uk/saras/starfest/starfest-2025/**