

Photograph: Nick Hart

## HANDBOOK

### 2005-2006

Introduction	1
Rhagarweiniad	2
Mission Statement	3
Committee 2005-2006	3 - 4
Programme 2005-2006	4 - 5
Constitution	6 - 7
Rules	7 - 9
The Bill Sutherland Award	9
Telescopes	10
Library	10
Data Protection Act	10
Where To Find Us	11
Observing Site	12



## **INTRODUCTION**

Cardiff Astronomical Society was founded in July 1975 by Dr Bob Owens and Dave Powell at an out of London meeting of the British Astronomical Association held at Dyffryn Gardens. They are both still members today as the Society continues to develop its activities supported by a very active and enthusiastic committee.

Membership has increased to over 250 and is drawn from a wide geographical area South and South West Wales, and into the West Country. Despite the travelling involved members attending meetings usually number over 60 and on several occasions during the year this number will reach over 100.

Meetings are held on alternate Thursday evenings September to July at University of Wales College Cardiff, beginning at 7:30pm. UWCC has a world class astronomy and physics department and the Society receives tremendous support from everyone there led by our own President Professor Mike Disney.

The programme is varied comprising of lectures, short talks and debates. The aim is to cater for all interests at whatever level, beginner or advanced. The Society is able to attract the very best speakers from all over the UK. We hold regular observing evenings at one of two designated sites where members can look up at the night sky with the help of more experienced observers and some of the telescopes owned by the Society. For those who need help there is a naked eye sky tour to start the night off.

A comprehensive library is available for use by all members and telescopes can be borrowed by arrangement. We publish a regular newsletter that gives information on forthcoming events, activities, current phenomena etc. All members are invited to contribute.

The Society is frequently featured in locally made science education programmes on television and radio and we are actively involved with national events such as Science Week and at Techniquest Discovery Centre in Cardiff Bay.

The map on page 11 shows the location of the venue. It is easy to get to and close to bus and train routes. Ample car parking is available nearby. If in doubt contact any Committee member (phone numbers on page 3 & 4). Please make every effort to attend - it is encouraging for speakers to have a large audience and makes it easier for the Society to attract the best.

Subscription: Adults £13.50 Juniors £2.50 Family £18.50

Subscriptions are due on September 1<sup>st</sup> and prompt payment is appreciated.

***A warm and friendly welcome promised for all!!***

## RHAGARWEINIAD

Sefydlwyd y Cymdeithas Seryddol Caerdydd yn nghorffennaf 1975 gan Dr Bob Owens a Dave Powell trwy cyfarfod allan o dre yn Llundian gan y Cymdeithas Seryddiaeth Prydeinig a chynhelir yng gherddi Dyffryn. Mae'r ddau o hyd yn aelod, ac mae'r cymdeithas dal yn datblugy ei weithgareddau, trwy cefnogaeth brwd frydol y pwylgor.

Erbyn hyn fe cynnyddir y nifer o aelodau i dros 200 sy'n dod o lefydd daearyddol aeang, gan cynnwys De Cymru, De Gorllewin Cymru, a'r Gwlad Gorllewin. Er gwaethaf y teithio hyr, mae ynna fel arfer dros 60 o aelodau yn troi i fynny, ac ambell i dro mae'r nifer dros 100.

Cynhelir y cyfarforfiadau ar prynhawn iau pob yn ail, o Medi i Gorffenaf, yn prif ysgol Cymru, Caerdydd, ac yn dechrau am 7:30. Mae gan y prifysgol adrannau seryddiaeth a fisseg byd enwog ac mae'r cymdeithas yn derbyn cefnogaeth anferth oddi wrth pawb ynno gan cynnwys ein proffeswr llywyddol Mike Disney.

Mae'r rhaglen yn cynnwys amryw o drafodaethau, dadleuon, a darlithia. Anelyir y rhaglennu tuag at pob lefel o diddordeb gan gynnwys rhai i dechreuw a rhai cymleth a cynhwysfawr. Mae'r cymdeithas yn atynnu areithwyr rhagorol o led led Prydain. Cynhelir nifer o sessiynau sylwedyddi yn un o ddau lefydd penodol - lle mae'r aelodau yn cael siawns i edrych tau'r awyr nos gyda cymorth sylwedydd profiadol, ac i defnyddio telescopau'r cymdeithas. I'r rhai sydd angen cymorth fe cynhelir twr llygad noeth i dechrau'r nôs.

Mae ynna llyfyrgell cynhwysfawr ar gael i bob aelod, ac mae telescopau ar gael i'w benthyg trwy trefniant hawdd. Cyhoeddir llythyr-newyddion o dro i dro sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth o digwyddiadau a gweithgareddau fuan. Mae gan bob aelod y siawns i gyfranu.

Mae'r cymdeithas aml yn cael ei gynnwys yn rhagleni addysg leol, ar y deledu, a'r radio, a hefyd yn ymuno mewn digwyddiadau cenedlaethol er enghraifft yr wythnos gwybodaeth a'r canolfan dargyfddiad Techniquest. Mae ynna map ar tudalen 11 sy'n dangos safle'r cymdeithas, sydd yn hawdd i dod o hyd iddo ac yn agos i'r orsaf trêñ a bws. Mae ynno llawer o lefydd agos ermwyn parcio ceir.

Os gennych unrhyw problemau allwch cysyllti a pwylgorwr (rhifau ffôn ar tudalenau 3 a 4).

Byddau'n pleswr mawr as allwch wneud ymdrech i mynchu – mae'n cefnogol i'r arweithwyr os bydd gennym cynulleidfa braisg ac yn wneud iddi'n hawddach i attynu'r arweithwyr gorau.

Tanysgrifiad: Oedolion: £13.50 Plant: £2.50 Teuluoedd: £18.50

By disgwyl y tanysgrifiad erbyn Medi 1<sup>af</sup> ac rydyn yn gwerthfawrogi taliad brau.

***Fe addewid croeso cynhes a cyfeillgar i bawb.***

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Society shall be an organization to stimulate public interest in the science of astronomy; to further the knowledge of its members and to promote and conduct research and observations.

## **COMMITTEE 2005-2006**

### **PRESIDENT**

Professor M J Disney FRAS  
 Professor of Observational Astronomy  
 Department of Physics  
 Cardiff University

### **CHAIRMAN**

Martin Chick  
 Myddlyn, Clôs Cefn Glas, Rowan Gardens,  
 Llantwit Fardre. CF38 2BS  
 Tel 01443 206 594  
 Mobile 07971 547 820  
 e-mail Martin@thechicks.co.uk

### **SECRETARY**

David Powell  
 1 Tal-y-Bont Road, Ely, Cardiff.  
 CF5 5EU  
 Tel 029 - 2055 1704  
 Mobile 07803 744 548  
 e-mail david.powell62@btinternet.com

### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

Theresa Cooper  
 8 Nant Lais, Corntown, Vale of Glamorgan.  
 CF35 5SA  
 Tel. 01656 646 920 or 023 8023 5664  
 e-mail Theresa@theresac.demon.co.uk

### **PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**

Ian Davies  
 52 Heol Nant Castan, Rhiwbina,  
 Cardiff. CF14 6RQ.  
 Tel 029 - 2062 0501  
 e-mail ian@ilddat.demon.co.uk

### **PUBLICITY OFFICER**

Vacant

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Professor M Edmunds  
 Astrophysics Group,  
 Department of Physics  
 Cardiff University

### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Roger Butler  
 11 Castle Road, Tongwynlais,  
 Cardiff. CF15 7JQ.  
 Tel. 029 2081 0965  
 e-mail butlerra@rwcnd.ac.uk

### **TREASURER**

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 20 New Road,  
 Rumney, Cardiff. CF3 3AA.  
 Tel 029 2079 1830  
 Mobile 07974 643 175  
 e-mail bobpulvernness@yahoo.co.uk

### **ASSISTANT TREASURER**

Norman Jenkins  
 Garth View, Peterston Road  
 Groesfaen, PONTYCLUN. CF72 8NU.  
 Tel 01446 - 760 002  
 e-mail norman-jenkins@lineone.net

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Amanda Townsend  
 10 WoodFord Close  
 Llandaff, Cardiff. CF5 2PH  
 Tel 029 2031 9053 Mobile 07949 825 717  
 e-mail a.townsend@tesco.net

### **UNIVERSITY LIAISON OFFICER**

Hugh Lang  
 85 Heol Hir  
 Llanishen, Cardiff. CF4 5AB.  
 Tel 029 2075 4211  
 e-mail SPXRHL@astro.cardiff.ac.uk  
 rob@lang85.demon.co.uk

## COMMITTEE 2005-2006

### **DARK SKY CO-ORDINATOR**

Peter Bennett  
6 Church Close, Llantwit Fardre.  
CF38 2NW.  
Tel 01443 - 203247

### **DIRECTOR of OBSERVATIONS**

Grahame Carter  
28 Garth Estate, Abertridwr,  
Caerphilly, CF83 4ES.  
Tel 029 2083 1427  
gjb.carter@btopenworld.com

### **CURATOR of INSTRUMENTS**

Stuart Keenor  
14 Tansy Close,  
Penpedairheol,  
Hengoed. CF82 8IF

### **LIBRARIAN**

Joan Thomas  
166 Albany Road  
Roath, Cardiff. CF24 3RW.  
Tel 029 - 2049 7594  
e-mail joanethomas@hotmail.com

### **PUBLIC EVENTS ORGANISER**

Edwin Jennings  
11 Cypress Place, Fairwater,  
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### **JUNIOR REP**

Nathaniel McInnes  
117 Glan Y Ffordd, Taffs Well  
Cardiff. CF15 7SP  
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nxadmin@hotmail.co.uk

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Estelle Bennett  
5 Ifor Hael Road, Rogerstone,  
Newport, NP10 9FB  
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### **COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Yvonne McInnes  
117 Glan Y Ffordd, Taffs Well  
Cardiff. CF15 7SP  
Tel 029 2033 7371  
y.mcinnnes@ntlworld.com

## **Cardiff Astronomical Society Programme 2005 - 2006**

### **2005**

1 <sup>st</sup> September	Sir Robert Ball, Astronomy's First Great Populariser.	Dr. Allan Chapman, University of Oxford.
15 <sup>th</sup> September	Transits of Venus.	Prof. David Hughes, University of Sheffield.
29 <sup>th</sup> September	The Elementary Universe.	Prof. Mike Edmunds. Cardiff University.
13 <sup>th</sup> October	Finding Dark Galaxies.	Prof. Mike Disney. Cardiff University.
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Do Astronomers really know what they are talking about. A Debate.	Prof. M Edmunds and Dr. J Davies. Cardiff University.
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Mars Revisited. <small>A summary of what we know to date. Topical bearing in mind the opposition of Mars.</small>	Greg Smye-Rumsby. Orpington Astronomical Society.

24 <sup>th</sup> November	In Pursuit of Pulsars. Will include some recent discoveries about Pulsars plus an introduction.	Prof. Jocelyn Bell-Burnell University Oxford.
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Black Holes and White Rabbits.	Prof. John Brown. Astronomy Royal for Scotland University of Glasgow.

## 2006

12 <sup>th</sup> January	Confronting the Cosmic Terror- ists.	Jay Tate Spaceguard. Powys Observatory.
26 <sup>th</sup> Januray	Astronomy from a Boeing 747,- How and Why?.	Dr Rhodri Evans. University of Glamorgan.
9 <sup>th</sup> February	The Satellites of Jupiter and Sat- urn. Will include Galileo/Cassini-Huygens results	Dr R M Owens. Cardiff Astro- nomical Society.
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Gamma Ray Bursts-Signals from the edge of the Universe.	Dr. R. Hillier. Bristol Astronomical Society.
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Deep Space in Wiltshire.	Philip Perkins, Ramsbury Wiltshire.
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Solar Sailing.	Dr. Stuart Clark, Hunsdon, Herts.
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Annual General Meeting.	Cardiff Astronomical Society.
20 <sup>th</sup> Aprril	Using a Telescope. A broad-based talk on telescopes etc.	Dr Simon Bennett. Widescreen Centre London.
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Galaxies, Clusters & Dr. K. Gunn. Superclusters-Structure Forma- tion in the Universe.	Southampton University.
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Observational Highlights of the Neil Bone. West Sussex. last 30 years.	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	37th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landings.	Pat Norris. Apollo Navigation Task Manager TRW Systems, Houston.
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Dark Skies (Light Pollution)	Bob Mizon - Dorset.
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Observing Variable Stars.	Dave Powell, Cardiff Astronomical Society.
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Three Short Talks.	Cardiff Astronomical Society Members.

Please note that while we try not to alter the programme, occasionally changes have to be made, sometimes at short notice. We will do our best to inform you in advance, via the newsletter, WEB site or at meetings.

# CONSTITUTION

## **1. NAME**

The Society shall be named the Cardiff Astronomical Society.

## **2. AIMS**

The Society shall be an organization to stimulate public interest in the science of astronomy; to further the knowledge of its members and to promote and conduct research and observations.

## **3. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be open to all persons interested in astronomy.

## **4. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The amount of the annual subscription (and any reduction for juniors etc.) shall be proposed by the committee and shall be subject to the approval of the general membership at an Annual general Meeting, or at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose.

## **5. FINANCIAL YEAR**

The financial year of the Society shall commence on March 1st.

## **6. MEETINGS**

- a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the Spring of each year. Such meetings will be devoted primarily to the reports of the officers and the election of Officers for the next session.
- b) Ordinary meetings shall take place once per fortnight, September to July, at the Society's headquarters, unless the committee should decide otherwise.

## **7. COMMITTEE**

- a) The committee shall be made up of the following members.

President  
Vice President  
Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Secretary  
Assistant Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer  
Membership Secretary  
Publications Officer

## **CONSTITUTION continued**

Publicity Officer  
Librarian  
Director of Observations  
Curator of Instruments  
University Liaison Officer  
Public Events Organizer  
Junior Representative  
Two Ordinary Members

- b) All officers eligible shall be elected for the ensuing year at the Annual General Meeting
- c) For each committee meeting, there shall be a quorum which shall be not less than one half of the committee membership.
- d) The President and Vice President are ex-officio members of the committee.
- e) The committee shall meet at least once per quarter
- f) The committee shall be the administrative body of the Society and shall be responsible for its activities.
- g) Committee members for election shall be proposed and seconded by a Society member.
- h) No person shall stand for election without his or her prior consent.

### **8. HEADQUARTERS**

The headquarters of the Society shall be Cardiff University.

## **RULES**

1. The Society shall consist of ORDINARY, HONORARY, JUNIOR (*Under 18 years old*) and ASSOCIATE members. *JUNIOR members under the age 14 years must be accompanied by an adult.* ORDINARY, HONORARY and *The JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE* shall have the right of attending and voting at all meetings of the Society, of proposing candidates for election to the committee, of serving if elected on the committee or in any office of the Society. *JUNIOR members have rights as outlined above with respect to the JUNIOR Representative.* ORDINARY, HONORARY, JUNIOR members have the right of receiving newsletters and notices issued during their membership.

2. ORDINARY and JUNIOR members shall pay an annual subscription. This shall become due on the first day of September every year. Members whose subscription are in arrears by over three months may be considered for removal from the Society at the discretion of the committee.
3. The management of the Society shall be vested in a committee as stated in 7A of the Constitution. The Chairman is elected to serve for one year with the option of standing for a second. The Chairman will stand down from the position following his/her term of office. The Secretary and Treasurer are not subject to re-election unless desired by the membership (*under rule 6*), the committee (*at a committee meeting or under rule 12*), or the incumbent. All other posts to come up for re-election annually, but the incumbent may be reelected for as many years as the membership, the committee, or the incumbent desires.
4. In addition there shall be two ordinary members who may stand for one year only, after which they must stand down. One year must elapse before they are eligible for re-election. The above members to be elected at appropriate Annual General Meetings. The committee has the right to co-opt members for a special purpose. The committee shall fill any vacancies that may arise until the next Annual General Meeting. The President and Vice President are *Ex officio* posts, not subject to election. They may change from time to time at the discretion of the committee, or when the incumbent wishes to be relieved of the post.
5. Before each Annual General Meeting there shall be issued to each Ordinary and Honorary member of the Society a *Newsletter* which shall contain the names of such members as may be nominated by the committee to serve on the committee for the following year. Additional nominations may be made by Ordinary members provided that the candidate is supported by not less than two Ordinary members, and that such nominations are received by the Secretary not less than fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Minutes shall be kept of committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings of the Society.
6. The committee shall, upon a requisition signed by not less than ten ORDINARY members of the Society, convene a Special General Meeting of the Society. A notice of the date and object of such a Special General Meeting shall be sent to each member of the Society not less than seven days before such a meeting, and no business shall be considered other than that for which it was convened.

7. The accounts of the Society shall be made up to the last day of February in each year, and audited by one individual excluding any serving member of the committee.
8. In the event of dissolution of the Society, such property or effects shall be disposed of by gift. Such gift shall be for the benefit of astronomy in general and not for the benefit of any individual. The disposal shall be determined by the vote of a Special General Meeting.
9. No rule shall be altered except by the majority vote of the Ordinary members present at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.
10. A copy of these rules shall be sent to each ORDINARY member upon election.
11. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman the committee shall be chaired by an officer elected by the committee.
12. Special meetings of the committee shall be called by not less than three committee members whose names shall appear on the summoning notice, together with the stated reason for the meeting. No minutes shall be read at a Special Meeting, and no business other than that stated on the agenda shall be transacted.

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## **THE BILL SUTHERLAND AWARD**

This award was set up in memory of Bill Sutherland an early member of CAS, who passed away in 1990. It is awarded each year at the AGM, to a CAS member who has shown outstanding enthusiasm for astronomy and the Society.

Work for the award can be of any astronomical or Society nature and may include (but not exclusively) things like observational drawings, photographs, CCD images, newsletter articles, Talks given to the Society.

Obviously some work comes to the attention of the awarding committee automatically (such as a newsletter article), other work by its nature may need to be brought to the attention of the awarding committee by its author (e.g. photographs).

Remember we are not necessarily looking for technical excellence but rather enthusiasm for astronomy and CAS, so enter your work for consideration for this award.

## **TELESCOPES**

The Society possesses the following instruments which are available for loan to members. Please contact the Curator of Instruments for further information.

1. 20x70 Binoculars with tripod.
2. 3 inch *f*16 refracting telescope.
3. 3½ inch *f*12 refracting telescope.
4. 90mm (3½ inch) *f*5.5 refractor.
5. Helios 4 inch refractor.
6. Helios 4 inch refractor (Short Tube).
7. Meade ETX90.
8. 4½ inch *f*7.3 'Siberia' Newtonian reflecting telescope.
9. 6 inch *f*8 open frame Newtonian reflecting telescope.
10. 6 inch *f*4 rich field Newtonian reflecting telescope.
11. 6 inch *f*8 'Siberia' Newtonian reflecting telescope.
12. 6 inch Horizon reflecting telescope.
13. 10 inch Orion reflecting telescope.
14. 8¾ inch *f*5.6 'Dark Star' Newtonian reflecting Telescope.

In addition the Society also possesses an eight-inch Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope which is for use at observing sessions, and is NOT available for loan to members.

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## **LIBRARY**

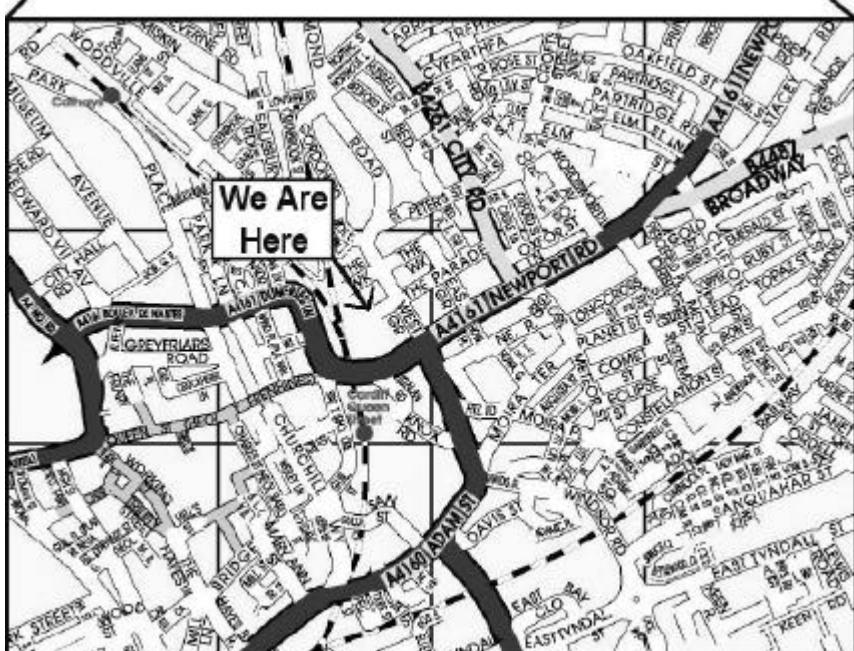
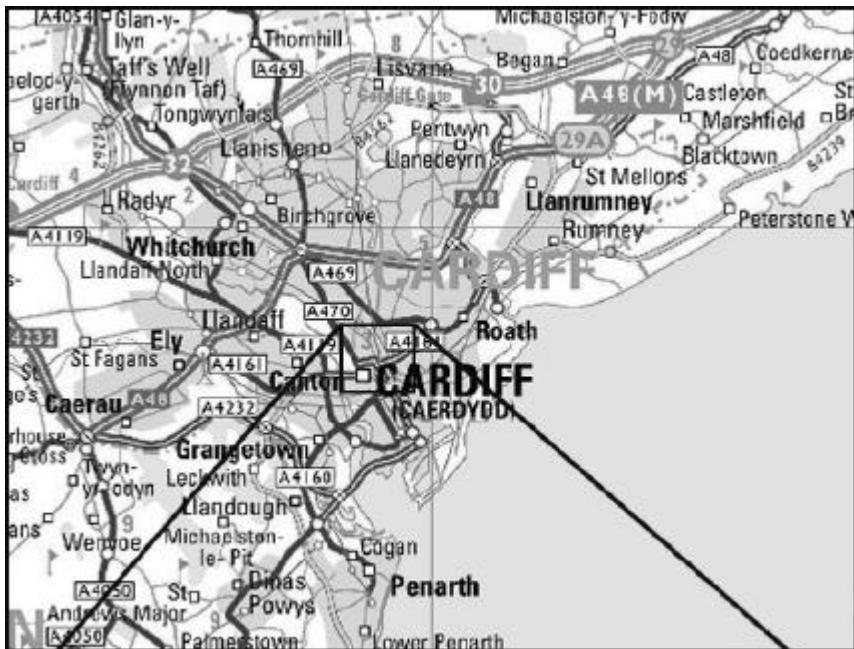
There are over 200 books, videos and CDs in the library available to members. New titles are added every year, either bought or donated: suggestions are welcome. A list of books can be viewed via our internet website or in a binder held in the library itself.

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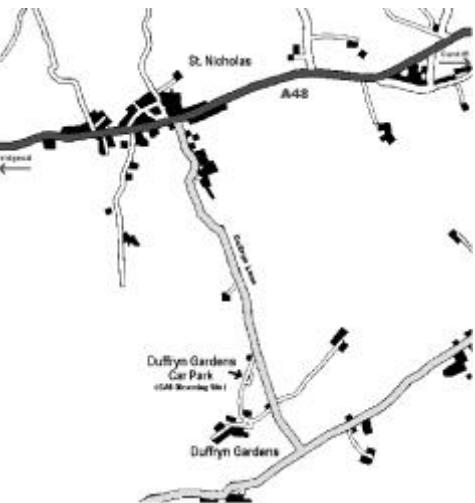
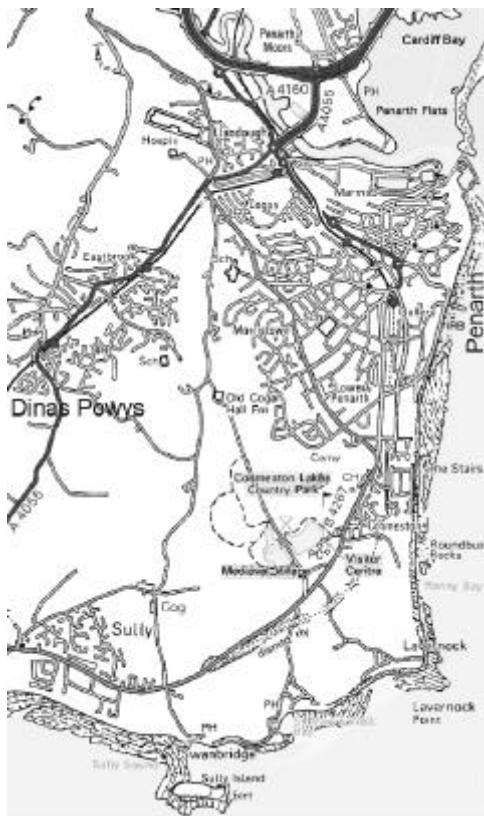
## **DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998**

Your membership details are kept on computer. They will only be used for the administration of Cardiff Astronomical Society and not disclosed to anyone who is not a member.

## WHERE TO FIND US



## OUR OBSERVING SITES



**Above:** CAS Observing Site at Duffryn Gardens Car Park

**Top Left:** CAS Observing Site at Cosmeston Lakes Country Park

**Bottom Left:** CAS Observing Sites at Castle Heights Golf Course and Wenallt Car Park

**NOTE:** Larger versions of these maps can be found in the "About CAS" section of our Web Site, at: [www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org](http://www.cardiff-astronomical-society.org)

