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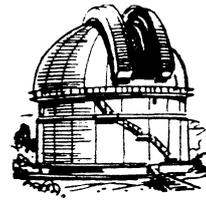
# Journal

of the

**Nottingham Astronomical Society**

**June 2017**

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**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**Gotham Memorial Hall\***

**Gotham, NG11 0HE**

**8 pm (doors open at 7 pm)**

**This evening we give a warm welcome to**

**Dr Allan Chapman, FRAS**



**who will be speaking on**

**Charles Messier**

***\*Please note the change of venue***

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## **A New Venue for our Meetings on the First Thursday of the Month**

Beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and continuing until further notice, there will be a change of venue for our First Thursday meetings. They will be held at **Gotham Memorial Hall, Nottingham Road, Gotham, NG11 0HE**. Guests and visitors are welcome.

If you are approaching Gotham from the Nottingham direction, you will pass the Star Inn on your left, shortly after which you will see Frydays fish-and-chip shop on your right. Turn into the access road immediately *before* Frydays. Car parking is available at the end of the access road, on the left, and the hall is opposite the car park.

If you approach from the direction of East Leake, turn left into the access road immediately *after* the fish-and-chip shop.

The No.1 bus from Nottingham serves Gotham into the evenings, and there is a convenient stop close to Frydays.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available from 7.00pm, and the talk will begin at 8.00pm.

**(This doesn't affect our Third Thursday meetings, which will continue to be held at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree).**

# Sky Notes

## June 2017



Compiled by Roy Gretton

*All times given below are in British Summer Time*

The **Summer Solstice**, when the Sun appears at its most northerly point in the sky (23.437 degrees north of the celestial equator), will occur at 5:25 am on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

### PHASES OF THE MOON

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Date and time</i>
First Quarter	1:42 pm on June 1 <sup>st</sup>
Full Moon	2:10 pm on the 9 <sup>th</sup>
Last Quarter	12:17 pm on the 17 <sup>th</sup>
New Moon	3:31 am on the 24 <sup>th</sup>

This month the Moon is closest to the Earth on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and furthest on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### THE PLANETS

**Mercury** passes through superior conjunction on June 21<sup>st</sup>, and must be regarded as unobservable this month.

**Venus** is a brilliant object in the morning sky, and reaches greatest western elongation (46 degrees from the Sun) on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, when it will be rising about 90 minutes before the Sun. In spite of its brilliance (magnitude  $-4.3$ ), an early-riser might fail to notice it, due to its low elevation above the eastern horizon.

Tiny, distant **Mars** is now unobservable as it approaches conjunction with the Sun in July.

**Jupiter** begins June moving in a retrograde direction, but reaches its second stationary point on the 10<sup>th</sup>, when it will resume its eastward motion in the constellation of Virgo. Shining at magnitude  $-2.3$ , Jupiter is the first “star” to become visible after sunset.

**Saturn’s** will be rising at about 10 pm as June commences, and will reach opposition to the Sun on June 15<sup>th</sup>, when it will be due south at approximately 1 am. However, due to its southerly declination, the planet will be only 16 degrees above the horizon at this time. If you do get the chance to view Saturn through a telescope, the ring system is displayed to advantage, with the planet’s north pole tilted toward us at about 26 degrees.

**Uranus** (in the constellation of Pisces) and **Neptune** (in Aquarius) are both morning objects, but extremely difficult to observe this month.

### METEORS

With its lack of true darkness, June is not the best time of the year for observing meteors, and there are no major showers during the month.

# DIARY DATES 2017

## Monthly Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

### 1) Meetings at Gotham Memorial Hall (*new venue*)

Nottingham Road, Gotham, NG11 0HE

Held on the **FIRST** Thursday of each month except **August**

Doors open at 7pm for 8pm start.

*These events are normally centred around a talk by a visiting speaker, except Opening Evenings, when NAS members provide the activities. Normally we have a **Library** and a **Helpdesk** open at each meeting.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Charles Messier	Dr Allan Chapman, FRAS
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Gravitational Waves	Dr Ed Daw University of Sheffield
August 5 <sup>th</sup> (SATURDAY)	BBQ at the Observatory (members and guests only)	
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Galaxy Evolution revealed by the Hubble Space Telescope	Dr Clive Tadhunter University of Sheffield
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Space Stations from Salyut to the ISS	Dr Mike Leggett, FRAS
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual General Meeting	
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Voyager 40 Years On (Part 1)	Paul Money, FRAS

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Check our website: [www.nottinghamastro.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamastro.org.uk)  
for the latest information about the Society's meetings  
and for further information about the talks and speakers.

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### 2) Social and Practical Astronomy Meetings at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree

Church Hill, Plumtree, Nottingham, NG12 5ND

Held on the **THIRD** Thursday of each month from **7:30pm**

*These meetings are of a more informal nature, providing opportunity for members and guests to share their hobby over a cup of tea or coffee, as well as listening to a short talk.*

*Members and their guests are welcome.*

**The next meeting will be on June 15<sup>th</sup>**

## Some other meetings and events you may be interested in

### June

[Webb Deep-Sky Society Annual Meeting](#) in Cambridge  
Saturday 3rd June, 2017

[BAA Comet Section Meeting](#) in Northampton  
Saturday 17th June 2017

[The biennial BAA exhibition](#), Edinburgh  
Saturday 24th June 2017

[Open Dome Event - Asteroid Day 2017](#), Nottingham Trent University, Clifton  
Thursday 29th June 2017

### July

[Open Dome Event - Stars in Your Garden](#), Nottingham Trent University, Clifton  
Monday 2th July 2017

[Orwell Astronomical Society 50th Anniversary Convention](#), Ipswich  
Saturday 29th July 2017

### September

[BAA Weekend Meeting](#), Chester  
Friday 8th September 2017 - Sunday 10th September 2017

[Horncastle Astronomy Weekend](#), Horncastle, Lincolnshire  
Friday 8th September 2017 - Sunday 10th September 2017

[International Astronomy Show](#), Stoneleigh Park, near Leamington Spa  
Friday and Saturday 13th and 14th October 2017

### **The Nottingham Astronomical Society: E - SERVICES**

Whether or not you are a NAS member, you can keep up to date with details of the Society's meetings and other events by visiting the NAS website:  
[www.nottinghamastro.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamastro.org.uk)

#### **NAS on Facebook**

You are welcome to connect with other members and friends of the NAS on Facebook by going to:  
<http://www.facebook.com/nas.org.uk>

#### **NAS on Twitter**

The Society has a Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/NottinghamAstro>

#### **NAS Journal e-mailing list**

To register for your monthly e-mailed copy of the NAS Journal, just e-mail [secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

You don't have to be a Society member to take advantage of this service.

*If you happen to change your email address, please remember to inform the Society by emailing us at [treasurer@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nottinghamastro.org.uk)*

## Social and Practical Astronomy, Plumtree

The **May** meeting at Plumtree was "Members' Practical Astronomy Activities" and was chaired by Gareth Davies, and we had four excellent talks. Richard Severn talked about the free software [Microsoft ICE](#) used to make composite images and panoramas and he gave a demonstration of how to use it and the results it generates. David Buxton gave us a potted history of the story behind why he wanted a home observatory and an account of how he went about building it, including the errors he made and how he overcame these. Leigh Blake talked us through his journal in astrophotography from using the camera on his smart phone to taking high resolution images in the hydrogen alpha narrow band. The evening finished with Gareth giving us a talk on an image of the [Rosette Nebulae](#) he has captured and he talked us through the steps he undertakes and the equipment he uses. A really enjoyable and informative evening - thank you all who helped out.

I'm keen to get some ideas of topics you want us to discuss at the Plumtree Social and Practical Astronomy meetings, so have put together a one question survey; click here to take the [survey](#). As an incentive to complete the survey there will be a prize draw for one lucky person to win an astronomy book. Closing date will be 14th June 2017. I'll announce the winner at Plumtree on the 15th June and in the July edition of the Journal.



The **June** meeting (Thursday 15th June) will be an opportunity to learn a bit more about some of the interesting objects in the night sky which are commonly observed and how they likely formed and how they continue to evolve. Doors will open at 7:30pm and the session will start at 8pm.

The **July** meeting (Thursday 20th July) will be a talk and slide show by Brian Griffin on the building of the Society's Observatory in Cotgrave. A talk I'm really looking forward to. Don't forget to take my brief survey - I need your ideas.

**James Dawson**

NAS Helpdesk

[helpdesk@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

## **NOCTILUCENT CLOUDS (*Skynotes Extra*)**

Noctilucent clouds are pale blue filamentary clouds, formed about 50 miles above the Earth's surface, far above the normal clouds we associate with the weather. They are best observed in June and July (from the northern hemisphere), becoming visible when illuminated by the Sun when it is well below the horizon. They are still poorly understood, but their "electric blue" appearance is quite distinctive. If you wish to see noctilucent clouds, look toward the north or northwest on a clear evening after 10.30 pm. You might like to try imaging them with a digital camera, in which case use a tripod, and find the best exposure setting by trial and error.

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### **ADVERTISEMENT**

#### **FOR SALE**

Set of four 1¼-inch coloured filters (red, yellow, green, blue)	£20
Celestron lens pen	£2
Micro-fibre cleaning cloth	£2

**Sam Boote [s.boote@bcs.org](mailto:s.boote@bcs.org) or at Society meetings**

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# Nottingham Astronomical Society

Affiliated to the **British Astronomical Association**  
Member of the **Federation of Astronomical Societies**  
Member of the **Society for Popular Astronomy**  
Supporters of the **Commission for Dark Skies**  
**Registered Charity No: 1066645**

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**(vacant post; Acting Director: John Hurst)**

email: [observatory@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:observatory@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

**Observatory line: 07726 940700 (line open during observing sessions)**

## **ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Barrie Chacksfield**

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## **Meetings**

Our formal meetings, often with an illustrated talk by a guest speaker, are held on the first Thursday of each month (except in August) at:

**Gotham Memorial Hall  
Gotham  
Nottingham NG11 0HE**

Doors open                    7.00pm  
**Meetings start                8.00pm**  
Meetings end                10.00pm

These meetings are open to the public, and visitors are welcome to attend.

## **Annual subscriptions 2017**

Full	£30
Joint rate for partners living at the same address	£45
Under-18s and full-time students	£5

Subscriptions become due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 30<sup>th</sup> June (minimum subscription £5).

Please make cheques payable to:  
*Nottingham Astronomical Society.*

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If you would like more information about the **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, or would like to become a member, please contact the Secretary [secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk) or speak to any NAS committee member at one of the regular monthly meetings. A membership application form is inside this issue of the Journal.

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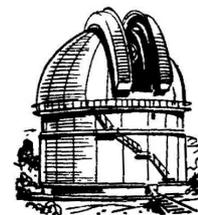
## **The Nottingham Astronomical Society**

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# NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Affiliated to the British Astronomical Association  
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Registered Charity No. 1066645  
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Supporter of the Commission for Dark Skies



## Membership application and Gift Aid declaration

**Title:**

**Full name:**

**Full home address:**

**Postcode:**

**Telephone:**

**e-mail address:**

<b>Subscription rate:</b>	Full	£30.00	(year)	£15.00	(half year)
	Partnership	£45.00	(year)	£22.50	(half year)
	Under-18 and full-time students	£5			

Partnership = two members living together as a couple at the same address

I wish my subscriptions to be eligible for Gift Aid **Yes / No**

## Gift Aid declaration

**(HMRC reference XR32048)**

I want Nottingham Astronomical Society to treat all subscriptions and donations that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations, until I notify you otherwise.

I pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that Nottingham Astronomical Society reclaims on my donations in the appropriate tax year.

**Signature:**

**Date:**