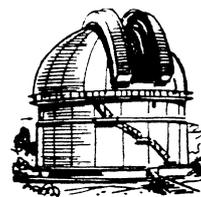

Journal

of the

Nottingham Astronomical Society

November 2017



In this issue

- Sky Notes for November
- E-Services
- Diary Dates 2017 – Meetings at Gotham and Plumtree
- Other events in the coming months
- Advertisement
- Social and Practical Astronomy – reports of last month's meeting and preview of forthcoming meetings
- Society Information
- Membership application form

Thursday, November 2nd

**Gotham Memorial Hall
Gotham, NG11 0HE**

8 pm (doors open at 7 pm)

November provides the occasion for our
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

but uniquely this year we shall be holding two such meetings, the first to wind up our current status as a **Registered Charity**, and the second to inaugurate our existence as a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**We encourage all NAS Members
to attend this event**

The Dawn of the Space Age – 60 years on
1957 – 2017

Part 2: Sam Boote reminisces

I enjoyed reading the Editor's thoughts in the October Journal about 60 years of the Space Age. 1957 was a big year in astronomy and was the year when I as an 11-year-old got hooked on the subject. It was the International Geophysical Year. It saw the establishment of the Jodrell Bank radio telescope, which remained the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope for nearly half a century. There was a bright comet (Arend-Roland). Patrick Moore presented the first of the BBC's Sky at Night programmes and continued doing so till he passed away 55 years later. The Soviet Union won the space race by putting Sputnik 1 into orbit (and Jodrell Bank had an early role in tracking it). And I nagged my father to buy my first telescope - an army surplus 2-inch refractor with surprisingly good optical performance. I'm now on my ninth telescope and still as hooked as ever on astronomy!



Comet Arend-Roland with its prominent antitail

Sky Notes

November 2017



Compiled by Roy Gretton

All times given below are in Universal Time (UT)

PHASES OF THE MOON

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Date and time</i>
Full Moon	5:23am on November 4 th
Last Quarter	8:10pm on the 10 th
New Moon	11:42am on the 18 th
First Quarter	5:03pm on the 26 th

This month the Moon is closest to the Earth on the 6th, and furthest on the 21st.

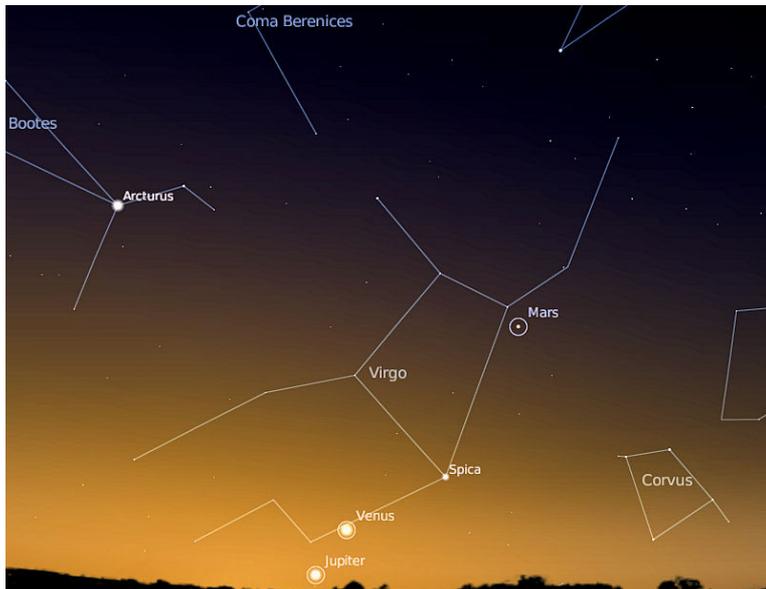
THE PLANETS

Mercury is an evening object throughout November, and reaches greatest eastern elongation (22 degrees) on the 24th. But, as is typical in the autumn, the planet is not well placed for observation from the northern hemisphere, being more than 25 degrees south of the celestial equator. So even on the 24th it will be setting less than one hour after the Sun.

Venus (magnitude -3.9) remains bright in the morning sky, but all the time moving closer to the Sun, so that by the end of the month its elongation will have diminished to a mere 10 degrees, and it will be rising barely three-quarters on an hour before the Sun.

Mars, in the constellation of Virgo, continues to slowly draw away from the Sun in the morning sky, and by the end of this month will be rising over 4 hours before sunrise. By then it will be shining at magnitude 1.7, and will have an angular diameter of 4.2 arcseconds.

Jupiter, after passing through solar conjunction in late October, will be moving away from the Sun in the morning sky, and by the end of November will be rising over two hours before sunrise.



Looking ESE
at 6:30am on
November 9th

*Planets in the
pre-dawn sky*

Saturn, still more than 22 degrees south of the celestial equator, passes from Ophiuchus into Sagittarius, but will become increasingly difficult to observe as November wears on, setting barely an hour after the Sun by the end of the month, as it heads for solar conjunction a few days before Christmas. Unfortunately for UK observers, Saturn will be just as far south when Christmas 2018 arrives!

Uranus, about 10 degrees north of the celestial equator in the constellation of Pisces, is well placed for observation this month, being above the horizon throughout the night. At magnitude 5.8 it is theoretically within the limits of naked eye visibility, but realistically you will need binoculars to go searching for this planet. Through a telescope it appears as a pale greenish disk, 3.6 arcseconds across.

Neptune is nearly 8 degrees south of the celestial equator in the constellation of Aquarius, and shining at magnitude 7.8.

METEORS

The **Taurids** have two maxima, the first on November 5th and the second on the 12th. Conditions are very unfavourable for the earlier maximum this year, as it occurs close to the Full Moon, but the second fares rather better, with a waning crescent Moon in the morning sky.

Circumstances this year are very favourable for the **Leonids**, which reach maximum activity on November 18th, close to New Moon. Twenty events might be seen per hour under ideal conditions.

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

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

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

DIARY DATES 2017

Monthly Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

1) Meetings at Gotham Memorial Hall

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>
November 2 nd	Annual General Meeting(s)	
December 7 th	Voyager 40 Years On (Part 1)	Paul Money, FRAS

Check our website: www.nottinghamastro.org.uk
for the latest information about the Society's meetings
and for further information about the talks and speakers.

**For your information, the Society has now booked the use of the
Gotham Memorial Hall for all of our First Thursday meetings in 2018**

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.

The next meeting will be on November 16th (see article below)

Events in the coming months open to everyone (follow hyperlinks for more information and how to book)

26th October	Astrophotographer of the Year , Open Dome Event, Clifton
28th October	Society for the History of Astronomy Conference , Birmingham
25th November	BAA Historical Section Meeting , Birmingham
28th November	Mars Rocks, Traces of Life and Water , Open Dome Event, Clifton
9th December	BAA Christmas Lecture , London
30th January	Project Adrift , Open Dome Event, Clifton
28th February	A brief history of women in astronomy , Open Dome Event, Clifton

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nPAE
PRECISION ASTRO ENGINEERING

REVIEWS

First appearances are certainly impressive. Cut from a single block of aircraft grade aluminium, the cage is bathed in a luscious red livery, nicely offset with the silvered nameplate and dark sextet of eyepiece turrets.

Astronomy Now, August 2017

When the time came to cease using the turret, I actually felt my heart sink the first time I went to switch eyepieces. [...] This was the moment when I realised that not only did the turret really compliment my style of observing, but I actually missed it as well

Alpha-Lyrae, June 2017

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ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Four prizes to win in two categories

Category 1: (using nPAE equipment)
1st prize: 4 tickets to Greenwich Observatory
+ £300 cash expenses
2nd prize: £50 nPAE discount voucher

Category 2: Using non nPAE equipment
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FREE to enter • Open to all skill levels •
Group entries welcome • Closing date 31st March 2018
See website for full terms and conditions



<http://www.npae.net>

Social and Practical Astronomy, Plumtree

The **October** meeting at Plumtree saw Sam Boote coordinate an interactive session on Society activities, current and desired. If you have any ideas or comments on Society activities please do forward them on to the secretary of the NAS Committee: secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk

The **November** meeting at Plumtree will be a number of short interactive talks on "Things which make my enjoyment of astronomer easier / better". If there is an item of equipment, a piece of software, or a book which makes your enjoyment of amateur astronomy easier or better, please let me know so we can share this with the rest of the group at the November meeting. As always, the doors will open at 7:30pm and the session will start at 8pm. We hope to see you there.

The **December** meeting will be a social event with mice pies and something else astronomical. I am hoping in the **New Year** to arrange a talk on eyepieces. If there are other topics you would like to be covered, let me know.

James Dawson

NAS Helpdesk

helpdesk@nottinghamastro.org.uk

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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Robert Bush

e-mail: curator@nottinghamastro.org.uk

DIRECTOR OF OBSERVING:

(vacant post; Acting Director: John Hurst)

email: observatory@nottinghamastro.org.uk

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

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Barrie Chacksfield

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 1st January. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 30th June (minimum subscription £5).

Please make cheques payable to:
Nottingham Astronomical Society.

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 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.

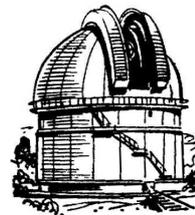
The Nottingham Astronomical Society

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NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Affiliated to the British Astronomical Association
Member of the Federation of Astronomical Societies

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Membership application and Gift Aid declaration

Title:

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Subscription rate:	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)

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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.

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