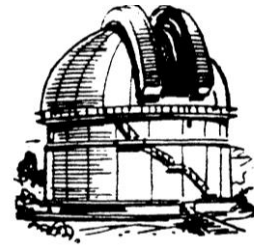

Journal

of the



Nottingham Astronomical Society

April 2002

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Thursday 4 April 2002

Doors open 7.30pm

Are We Alone?

is the title of the evening's talk, and we are pleased to welcome our guest speaker

Dr Frazer Pearce

of the

**Department of Physics and Astronomy,
University of Nottingham**

Committee Resignations

It is with great regret that I must report the resignations, from the NAS committee, of Brian Griffin, Robin Gray and Karl Wood.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to express gratitude for their enormous service over many years.

Brian and Robin have been the mainstays of the Observatory construction and Large Telescope projects from the outset.

In addition, all three have given decades of service on the NAS committee as past Presidents and as Treasurer, Director of Observing and Curator of Instruments.

Their presence and contributions to the life of the Society will be greatly missed.

David Lukehurst
NAS President

Sky Notes

April 2002



The Moon

Last quarter	4d 15h
New	12d 19h
First quarter	20d 13h
Full	27d 03h

The Planets

	Date	R.A. h m	Dec ° '	mag	Visibility
Mercury	Apr 21	2 49.1	+17 48	-1.1	evening sky, NW
Venus	Apr 06	2 14.5	+13 08	-3.8	evening sky, NW
	Apr 26	3 52.1	+20 45	-3.8	
Mars	Apr 06	3 28.7	+19 33	+1.5	evening sky, W
	Apr 26	4 25.8	+22 28	+1.6	
Jupiter	Apr 06	6 33.0	+23 24	-2.2	evening sky, SW
	Apr 26	6 44.2	+23 15	-2.0	
Saturn	Apr 06	4 38.1	+20 40	+0.2	evening sky, SW
	Apr 26	4 46.8	+21 00	+0.1	
Uranus	Apr 16	22 01.4	-12 52	+5.9	morning sky, E
Neptune	Apr 16	20 52.8	-17 27	+7.9	morning sky, E

Observatory Supervisor

With the Large Telescope project approaching completion during the next year, and with the loss of Brian Griffin and Robin Gray from the Society, there is an urgent need for someone to oversee the work which needs to be completed in order for the Society Observatory building to be in a fit state to receive the Large Telescope.

At this time, it is hoped that all members with appropriate skills and a little spare time will contribute to completing the outstanding work, but someone is needed to organise and oversee this work. Anyone interested in this task is invited to step forward at the earliest opportunity!

David Lukehurst
NAS President

The NAS Journal

Regular readers of the Journal will know that Brian Griffin contributed the **Sky-Notes** and **Spacecraft News** items for each issue. As you will have read in this issue, Brian has resigned from the NAS committee and the post of Director of Observing.

As editor, I would like to thank Brian for his contributions to the Journal over many years. His material always arrived on time without fail every month and formed an important part of this publication. I will greatly miss his regular e-mails.

Paul Stocks
Journal Editor

David Northrop

It is with great sadness I have to report the death of a society founder member David Northrop. David died of heart failure at St. Helier hospital in Sutton (Cheam) on March 16th, after being ill with Pulmonary Fibrosis. The Society extends its' deepest sympathy to his surviving brother Eric at this time.

It is my understanding that David Northrop was the last living founder member of the Nottingham Astronomical Society, so news of his death brings to a close a chapter in the history of this Society.

David kept a keen interest in the NAS right up to his death, and I know he was so pleased to learn about our successful lottery grant. David visited the Society, and gave a talk about amateur observatories back in 1986 in our 40th Anniversary year. He was

a keen amateur astronomer all his life, although I think he was forced to give up observing a few years ago when his health began to fail. One of his great "missions" in

life was to publish an illustrated book about amateur observatories. This he did in the Nineties at great expense to himself. The book contains many drawings made by David himself, (art being another of his loves, a love also shared by Eric).

I also know that he and Eric both got a great deal of pleasure from sailing their boat, and classical music.

My thanks to Alan Heath (Hon. Vice President) for passing on this sad news. Please spare a quite moment to pray and think about David, without past members like him we might not have our Society today.

Carl Brennan
Society Secretary

DIARY DATES, by Carl Brennan

Future Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

2002

April 4th Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open from 7.30pm

ARE WE ALONE?

Dr. Frazer Pearce, Department of Physics
and Astronomy, University of Nottingham

July 4th Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open from 7.30pm

SETI AND OUR PART IN PROJECT PHOENIX

Dr Ian Morrison, Jodrell Bank

September 5th Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open from 7.30pm

THE HUMANIZATION OF SPACE

Talk by Dr. Michael Martin-Smith, author
and member of Hull Astronomical Society

Other Events

11th May Ilkeston & District Astronomical Society Celebrates its' 10th Anniversary with a one day convention. To be held at Heanor Welfare Centre, Wilmot Street, Heanor. Advance tickets are £5.00. Make cheques out to "Ilkeston and District Astronomical Society", and send them to Harry Bingham, 38 Broadway, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7GW.

18th May Saturday 10:30am Webb Society Annual General Meeting at Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory, Nr. Oxford

9th to 12th August Scarborough & District Astronomical Society Summer Star Festival
Details from Carl Brennan, or Mrs. S. Aderson, 25 Highfield, Scarborough, N. Yorks, YO12 4AW,
Telephone 01723 500389, E-mail
gwernan2@ukf.net
www.baryte.demon.co.uk/astro/

Future Events

The next National Astronomy Week.

On 27 August 2003 the planet Mars will come to a particularly good opposition. To celebrate this event, Britain's astronomers are planning another

National Astronomy Week

<http://www.astronomyweek.org.uk>

Nottingham Astronomical Society

The Secretary compiles these Diary Dates. Contributions are always welcome (please include source acknowledgement). Nottingham Astronomical Society, and/or the Secretary accept no responsibility for any errors that may occur within this publication. Any views expressed in *Diary Dates* are those of the individual authors and not necessarily endorsed by the Secretary, Nottingham Astronomical Society, its Committee or Members

OTHER EVENTS:

“Autographica 2002

The Worlds Largest Autograph Show”

17th/18th/19th May

Northampton Moathouse Hotel

News Update

More details: www.autographica.co.uk

Our guest list is now up to over 40 and includes Ed Gibson and Jerry Carr from Skylab, Walt Cunningham from Apollo 7 and 4 Russian Cosmonauts. It is not easy to get these early space pioneers to attend our show, but this year we are highly delighted to be able to offer you the following Vladimir Shatalov, Pavel Popovich, Valery Polyakov and Andrian Nikolayev. We understand that they will be attending in their full Military uniform. We will have photos available for signing, and they will of course sign your own items too. Their attendance has been confirmed but they still await the usual visas etc. Last year Alexei Leonov, the first man to walk in space, was immensely popular, and as predicted that was his only ever autograph signing session outside of his homeland. So get em while you can!

The hotel is now fully booked for Thursday Friday and Saturday nights, and room enquiries are now being put onto the Courtyard at the Marriott. The Hotel is a short drive away and the rates are very competitive. It is also expected that the Ibis hotel being built directly opposite will be finished and open by the middle of April, we will have full details of this on the website just as soon as it happens.

Millvina Dean, the Titanic Survivor will again be attending the show, but this year on Sunday only. Last year she was very busy and we had difficulty in coping with the numbers who wanted to meet her. This year only advance ticket holders will be guaranteed to meet her. We will be giving out numbered tickets at the door for those without advance tickets, and if time permits we will endeavour to allow these people an opportunity to meet her as well, but judging by the number of advance tickets sold so far it looks doubtful. So if you really want to meet Millvina then please ensure you have an advance ticket for Sunday.

Small Advertisements

David Lukehurst

Astronomical Telescope Maker

Dobsonian Mounted

Newtonians

From 6¼ to 25-inches plus

12-inch f/6 truss-tube Dobsonian

£995

6-inch f/12 Achromatic Object Glasses

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1¼-inch Super-Plossl Eyepieces

£32

Ronchi testing eyepieces (50 or 100 lpi)

£32

For details & price list:

Tel: 0115 9602266

e-mail: gildor@ntlworld.com

“Small Ads” in the NAS Journal

The Journal can accept small advertisements, as long as they relate in some way to astronomy or space science.

NAS Members' advertisements of up to 50 words are accepted free of charge.

Advertisements of a commercial nature are accepted at a cost of £1 per issue or £10 for the year (11 issues).

All advertisements are accepted at the discretion of the Journal Editor.

Please send your advertisement to the Journal Editor.

Cheques in payment for commercial advertisements should be made payable to “Nottingham Astronomical Society” and sent to the Treasurer.

The Widescreen Centre

18, LADY BAY ROAD, Nottingham, NG2 5BJ

0115 945 5459 FAX: 0115 945 5362

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www.telescopes-direct.com

eMail: call@widescreen-centre.co.uk

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You are always made welcome at our shop or a telephone call to Lynda will bring you our latest catalogue

Nottingham Astronomical Society

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join the Nottingham Astronomical Society, please complete and tear off this slip. Make your cheque/postal order payable to:

THE NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Then send the slip and payment to Carl Brennan, Hon. Secretary, **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, 40 Swindon Close, The Vale, Giltbrook, Nottingham NG16 2WD.

Alternatively you may hand the slip and payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at one of the Society's regular meetings.

Your name _____

Full address _____

_____ Postcode _____

I wish to join the Nottingham Astronomical Society and enclose the membership fee for

(please tick appropriate box)

- Full Adult £22
- Junior (17 years or under) £11
- Concession (*full time student, UB40, Senior Citizen*) £11

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 Campaign for Dark Skies
Registered Charity No: 1066645

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CAMPAIGN FOR DARK SKIES:

Christine Wells

e-mail: wells_chrissie@hotmail.com

Meetings

Formal monthly meetings, with speakers, are held on the first Thursday of each month (except August) at

Djanogly City Technology College

Sherwood Rise, Nottingham NG7

Doors open	7.30pm
Meetings Start	7.45pm
Meetings end	10.00pm

Non-members are very welcome at our meetings and there is no charge for the first meeting. We make a small charge of £2.50 adults, £1.25 juniors to non-members after their first attendance. Invited guests are admitted free of charge.

Annual Subscriptions, 2001-02

Full Adult:	£22
Junior (17 years or under)	£11
Concessions	£11

(Full time student, UB40, Senior Citizens)

Subscriptions become due at the October AGM. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 1st April. Please make cheques payable to:
Nottingham Astronomical Society.

If you would like further information about the Nottingham Astronomical Society, or would like to become a member, please

- contact the Honorary Secretary, Carl Brennan, at the address given above or
- speak to any NAS committee member at one of the regular monthly meetings.

A membership application form appears inside this issue of the Journal.
