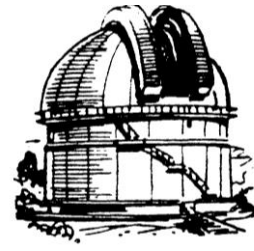

Journal

of the



Nottingham Astronomical Society

January 2002

Inside this issue

- Sky Notes for January 2002
- Extraordinary Meeting Notice
- Diary Dates
- Spacecraft News
- Small ads
- Membership application form

*Thursday 3 January 2002
at Djanogly CTC*

Doors open 7.30pm

Come along and join in our
New Year

ASTRO QUIZ

As announced in a Notice published in the November and December issues of the Journal, the 3rd January 2002 meeting will include an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss and vote on the Rules of the Society.

(Another copy of the Notice is inside this issue of the Journal.)

STOP PRESS

**Nottingham Astronomical Society large telescope project is awarded
£5,000 from the National Lottery**

Perhaps there really is a Santa Claus! Just days before Christmas, Nottingham Astronomical Society President David Lukehurst received notification that the Society's application to the National Lottery for funds has been successful. The Society has been granted £5,000 toward the cost of our large telescope project. More details will follow in future issues of the NAS Journal.

February's Meeting

At the February 7th meeting of the Society, our guest speaker will be Mark Thomas of Ilkeston & District A.S., who will speak on the topic of
Astrophotography – A Personal Adventure.

SKY - NOTES FOR JANUARY

Brian Griffin
Director of Observing



SOLAR & PLANETARY DATA

Object	Date	R.A. h m	Dec ° '	mag	dia "	Elong./Constellation/Visibility
Sun	Jan 1	18 45	-23 02			
		11 19 29	-21 52			
		21 20 01	-19 59			
		31 20 54	-17 29			
Mercury	Jan 1	19 52	-23 02	-0.8	5.5	evening sky , 15° , SW
		6 20 23	-21 04	-0.8	6.0	evening sky , 18° , SW
		11	Greatest Eastern elongation			
		11 20 49	-18 43	-0.6	6.7	evening sky , 19° , SW
		16 21 04	-16 25	-0.1	7.7	evening sky , 18° , SW
		21 21 04	-14 54	+1.3	9.0	evening sky , 13° , SW
Venus	Jan 14	Superior conjunction				
Mars	Jan 6	23 26	- 4 18	+0.8	6.1	evening sky , SW, Aquarius
		26 00 19	+ 1 49	+0.7	5.5	evening sky , SW, Pisces
Jupiter	Jan 1	Opposition				
		6 06 44	+23 05	-2.7	47x44	evening sky , S , Gemini
		26 06 33	+23 17	-2.6	46x43	evening sky , S , Gemini
Saturn	Jan 7	04 31	+20 03	-0.2	18.3	evening sky , S , Taurus
		26 04 27	+19 59	-0.1	17.8	evening sky , S , Taurus
Uranus	Jan	Too low in SW sky for observation				
Neptune	Jan	Too low in SW sky for observation				

LUNAR DATA

Phases January

Last Qtr : 6d 04h
First Qtr : 21d 18h

New : 13d 13h
Full : 28d 23h

Apsides January

Perigee : 2d and 30d

Apogee : 18d

'NEAR-MISS' OCCULTATION

On the evening of January 26 (Saturday) the Moon will just miss occulting the planet Jupiter as seen from the Nottingham area. At about 18h 06m UT Jupiter will be about 30 arc seconds (ie less than the apparent diameter of Jupiter) from the Southern limb of the Moon. There will be a grazing occultation from the South Yorkshire area, and a full occultation from even further North. The Moon's phase will be 2-days before Full.

I would advise starting to observe this event about 1hr before closest approach.

RISING AND SETTING TIMES (UT)

December 31/January 1

Sun set	16h 00m
Mercury sets	17 00
Neptune sets	18 25
Uranus sets	19 45
Mars sets	22 05
Saturn sets	05 50
Venus rises	08 00
Sun rise	08h 10m

January 31/February 1

Sun set	16h 40m
Neptune sets	16 40
Venus sets	17 00
Uranus sets	17 55
Mars sets	22 15
Saturn sets	03 40
Jupiter sets	06 10
Mercury rises	07 00
Neptune rises	07 35
Sun rise	07h 50m

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the executive committee of the Nottingham Astronomical Society called for an Extraordinary meeting of the Society in accordance with term Q of the Constitution for the evening of **2002 January 3rd**, (called for at the meeting of the committee 2001 October 18th). The extraordinary meeting is being called to discuss the motion;

“The Executive Committee proposes that the document known as Draft Rules-01 be adopted as the Rules of the Society”

Copies of this document are available from the secretary (40 Swindon Close, The Vale, Giltbrook, NOTTINGHAM, NG16 2WD (please enclose C5 SAE), also at carl.stella@virgin.net), at ordinary meetings, or at http://communities.msn.co.uk/CarlsStellaWorld/files.msnw?fc_p=%2FNottingham%20Astronomical%20Society&fc_a=0 (sign in/passport required)

Members are asked to review this document, any comments, or objections should be forwarded to the secretary at the above addresses. Please remember that only paid up members aged 18 or over are entitled to vote on the above proposal.

2001-10-20 Carl J. Brennan (Society Secretary)

DIARY DATES, by Carl Brennan

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

January 17th Informal Meeting

At the home of Stuart Atkin, 356
Loughborough Road, West Bridgford
7.30pm until 9.00pm

February 7th Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open from 7.30pm

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY – A PERSONAL ADVENTURE

Talk by Mark Thomas, Secretary of
Ilkeston & District Astronomical Society

February 11th (MONDAY)

Committee Meeting, usual venue 7.30pm

February 21st Informal Meeting

At the home of Stuart Atkin, 356
Loughborough Road, West Bridgford
7.30pm until 9.00pm

March 7th Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open from 7.30pm

ASTRONOMY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM:

FROM TEN INCHES TO TEN METRES, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

Professor Michael R. Merrifield
BA (Oxon), AM, PhD (Harvard)

March 19th (TUESDAY)

ANNUAL SOCIETY DINNER

Meet 6.00 for 6.30pm meal at New
College Nottingham (what used to be
Clarendon). Price £10.50 – sample menu
with El Presidente, other details from
Peter Davison

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

January 25-26 (Fri-Sat):

THE 7th BURTON WINTER BEER FESTIVAL, BURTON ON TRENT TOWN HALL, KING EDWARD PLACE.

Open Fri noon-3pm & 630-11pm,
Sat 1130-4 & 7-11pm. 45+ real ales.
Prices CAMRA members free all sessions.
Free lunchtimes, £2 for commemorative
glass. Fri evening £4.50 incl. glass. Sat
evening £4 incl glass. Entertainment both
evenings. Food available all sessions.
More details on website
camra.org.uk/burton.

8th & 9th February (Friday & Saturday)

AstroFest takes place at the usual venue
of Kensington Town Hall.

OTHER NEWS

MARK THIS DIARY DATE FOR NEXT YEAR!

**ILKESTON & DISTRICT
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IDAS)
21st BIRTHDAY CONVENTION** – details to
follow but it will be on either May 11th or 18th.

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

January 8th (1942)

Stephen William Hawkings 60th Birthday
<http://www.psyclops.com/hawking/bio/>
for details

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
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Diary Dates are those of the individual authors and
not necessarily endorsed by the Secretary,

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or Members.

SPACECRAFT NEWS (16/12/01)

Mars Odyssey

30 November 2001

Flight controllers for NASA's 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft report that Odyssey has reduced its orbit period to just under 10 hours. The orbit period is the time it takes the spacecraft to make one revolution around the planet.

During each aerobraking pass, when the spacecraft skims the atmosphere to alter its orbit, Odyssey's closest approach, known as the periapsis, is just 103 kilometres (64 miles) above the Martian surface. Its farthest point from the planet, known as the apoapsis, is now 15,300 kilometres (9,500 miles).

The spacecraft has completed 55 passes through the martian upper atmosphere. Twelve manoeuvres have been performed thus far to control the spacecraft's altitude in order to achieve the proper orbit.

During aerobraking, the high-energy neutron detector is the only science instrument taking data. It is turned off briefly during each pass through the atmosphere.

The aerobraking phase is expected to finish in late January 2002. At that point, Odyssey will be in its desired circular orbit, and the science mapping mission will begin sometime in early February.

Extracts from JPL/NASA web sites.

Brian Griffin

(This is not the most kept up todate site, but I suppose no news is good news - BG)

A slimmer issue of the Journal

Just like the newspapers at this time of year, this issue of the Journal is a bit "slimmer" than usual. And e-mail problems on my computer have added some production difficulties. Back to normal (I hope) next month.

Happy New Year!

The Editor

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

£295

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

WebShop: www.widescreen-centre.co.uk

www.telescopes-direct.com

eMail: call@widescreen-centre.co.uk

Stockists for:

MEADE

ORION

CELESTRON

KONUS

HELIOS

BINOCULARS

EYEPIECES

BARLOW'S

FILTERS

BOOKS

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY OUTFITS

CCD CAMERAS

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

Nottingham Astronomical Society

*The Nottingham Astronomical Society, and/or the Editor accept no responsibility for any errors that may occur within this publication. Any views expressed in the **NAS Journal** are those of the individual authors and not necessarily endorsed by the Nottingham Astronomical Society, it's Committee or Members.*

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

If you are not already a member of the Nottingham Astronomical Society and would like to join, please complete and detach 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, 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

PRESIDENT:

David Lukehurst

Tel: 0115 960 2266

e-mail: gildor@ntlworld.com

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Alan Heath (Ex. Dir. BAA Saturn Section)

Dr Roy Gretton

e-mail: roy_gretton@peoples.ac.uk

Peter Davison

e-mail: pebarwb@ntlworld.com

HONORARY SECRETARY:

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Giltbrook, Nottingham NG16 2WD

Tel: 0115 854 8687

e-mail: carl.stella@virgin.net

TREASURER & DIRECTOR OF OBSERVING:

Brian Griffin

Tel: 0115 929 8364

e-mail: brian@griffin1048.freemove.co.uk

CURATOR OF INSTRUMENTS

Robin Gray

Tel: 0115 965 6340

JOURNAL EDITOR:

Paul Stocks

e-mail: paul.stocks@diamond.co.uk

CAMPAIGN FOR DARK SKIES:

Christine Wells

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Karl Wood

e-mail: karl@wood1967.freemove.co.uk

Dr Mike Provost

e-mail: mike.provost@ntlworld.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.

Saturday Night Observing Sessions

These are dependent on suitable sky conditions. Please phone either:

Brian Griffin 0115 929 8364, or

Robin Gray 0115 965 6340

approximately one hour before sunset on Saturday evenings, to check if the observing site will be open.
(Sunset times are in **Sky Notes**.)

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.
