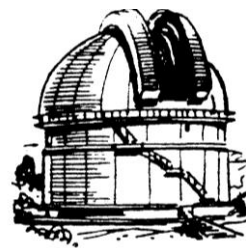

Journal

of the



Nottingham Astronomical Society

June 2011

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Thursday, June 2nd

**British Geological Survey
Nicker Hill, Keyworth
8 pm (doors open at 7.30pm)**

This evening we welcome

Dr Loretta Dunne

of the School of Physics and Astronomy
University of Nottingham

who will be speaking on

**" Herschel – Seeing the Stolen
Starlight "**

Noctilucent Clouds – are they really so new?

Noctilucent clouds (NLCs) are pale blue filamentary clouds that appear in June and July, far above the normal clouds that we associate with the weather. Typically they are formed about 50 miles above the Earth's surface, and become visible when illuminated by the Sun when it is well below the horizon. Strangely, there are no records of these clouds being seen before the 1880s, although it very is difficult to believe that they didn't exist before then. Robert Leslie of Southampton is often credited with their discovery, after publishing his 1885 observations of them in the journal Nature. There has been some speculation that the formation of the clouds resulted from the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883, since they appeared soon after this event.

If you wish to see NLCs, look toward the north or northwest on a clear evening after 10.30. You might like to try capturing NLCs with a digital camera. Use a tripod if you have one, and find the best exposure setting by trial and error.

Sky Notes

June 2011

Compiled by Roy Gretton



The SUMMER SOLSTICE, when the Sun reaches its most northerly declination of the year, occurs at 6.16 pm BST on June 21st. For about a month either side of this date the sky is never fully dark at the latitude of Nottingham.

PHASES OF THE MOON

New Moon occurs on June 1st at 10.03 pm **BST**
First Quarter occurs on the 9th at 3.11 am
Full Moon occurs on the 15th at 9.14 pm
Last Quarter occurs on the 23rd at 12.48 pm

This month the Moon is closest to Earth on the 12th, and furthest from Earth on the 24th.

Total eclipse of the Moon, June 15th

Observers in the UK are poorly placed to see this eclipse, but it will be worth a try if you are somewhere with a clear southeastern horizon. The eclipsed Moon will rise at about 9.30 pm, and totality will last for a further half-hour. Thereafter, a partially eclipsed Moon will be visible until about 11 pm.

THE PLANETS

Mercury passes through superior conjunction on June 12th, after which it becomes an evening object. By the end of the month it will be 19 degrees from the Sun, but still very difficult to observe.

Venus is a morning object, but difficult to see due to its low elevation and proximity to the Sun.

Mars, appearing as a tiny disk only four arcseconds across, is gradually moving away from the Sun in the morning sky, but remains close to the eastern horizon, making observation difficult.

Jupiter is also a morning object, rising somewhat earlier than Mars, with an apparent diameter of 33 arcseconds. We shall have to wait until late October to see this giant at its best.

Saturn, in the constellation of Virgo, remains the best planet to observe throughout June. The rings are tilted toward the south as viewed from Earth, giving a clear view of the whole of the northern hemisphere, where a white storm has been raging since early December.

Uranus is a morning object, one degree north of the celestial equator, in the constellation of Pisces.

Neptune is also a morning object, in the constellation of Aquarius.

DIARY DATES 2011

Monthly Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

Our programme for this year is shown below. Don't forget to check our website:

www.nottinghamastro.org.uk

for the latest information about the Society's meetings and for further details about the talks and speakers.

Our meetings are held on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month, at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Notts. NG12 5GG
Doors open at 7:30pm for 8pm start.

Thursday, 2nd June 2011

Talk: **" Herschel - Seeing the Stolen Starlight "**
(what the Herschel Space Telescope is showing us
about the hidden side of the Universe)

Dr Loretta Dunne
School of Physics and Astronomy
University of Nottingham

Thursday, 7th July 2011

Talk: **" Gamma Ray Bursts – A Cosmic Detective Story "**

Dr Andrew J. Norton
Department of Physics and Astronomy
The Open University

August 2011 - Summer Break - No Meeting

Thursday, 1st September

Members' Evening
(visitors welcome) - Topics to be arranged

Thursday 6th October

Talk: **" Journey to the Aurora of Jupiter "**
The 2018 NASA/ESA Double Mission to the Jupiter System

Dr Nigel Bannister
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of Leicester

Thursday 3rd November 2011

2011 Annual General Meeting

Thursday 1st December 2011

Dramatic Lecture : “ Fire from the Sky - the Tunguska Incident ”

Andrew Lound

The Nottingham Astronomical Society: E - SERVICES

‘Beehive’ Website

Whether or not you are a NAS member, you can now keep up to date with details of the Society’s meetings and other events by visiting the NAS website:

www.nottinghamastro.org.uk

NAS Journal e-mailing list

To register for your monthly e-mailed copy of the NAS Journal, just e-mail

info@nottinghamastro.org.uk

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

Small Advertisements

Telescope for sale

Meade 2080 8-inch f/10 Schmidt-Cassegrain with field tripod and wedge. Reflex sight, 6mm, 12.5mm, 25mm and 32mm eyepieces, 2X Barlow, 0.4X telecompressor, two 90° erecting prisms; 45° roof prism. All in excellent condition in fitted trunk/case. Offers to 0115 937 6333 or rockvision@btinternet.com (Keyworth)

Mike Sumbler

FOR SALE

Vixen single-axis (Right Ascension) drive motor and hand controller to fit Great Polaris or GP-DX equatorial mount.

Also battery case for use with the above.

£20

Email the Editor: roygretton@hotmail.co.uk

NAS Members may submit private advertisements for inclusion free of charge in the Journal. Please email the Editor.

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:

Fred Hopper

e-mail: fred.w.m.hopper@googlemail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Roy Gretton

e-mail: roygretton@hotmail.co.uk

SECRETARY:

Victoria Jolly

e-mail: info@nottinghamastro.org.uk

TREASURER:

Sam Boote

e-mail: s.boote@bcs.org

JOURNAL EDITOR:

Roy Gretton

e-mail: roygretton@hotmail.co.uk

OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR:

John Hurst

email: jmhurst@hotmail.co.uk

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

CAMPAIGN FOR DARK SKIES

REPRESENTATIVE:

Barrie Chacksfield

email: b.chacksfield@bgs.ac.uk

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Joe Sowerby

Dorothy Sowerby

Kevin Greally

David Anderson

Meetings

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

**The British Geological Survey
Nicker Hill
Keyworth
Nottingham NG12 5GG**

Doors open 7.30pm

Meetings start 8.00pm

Meetings end 10.00pm

Meetings are open to the public, and visitors are always welcome to attend.

Annual subscriptions 2011

Full	£25
Concessions	£12.50
Joint rate for partners living at the same address	£37.50

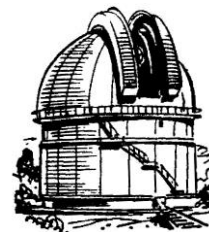
Subscriptions become due on 1st January. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 1st July. Please make cheques payable to: Nottingham Astronomical Society.

If you would like more information about the **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, or would like to become a member, please contact the Secretary info@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



Founded in 1946 for all interested in astronomy
Affiliated to the British Astronomical Association
Member of the Federation of Astronomical Societies

Registered Charity No. 1066645
Member of the Society for Popular Astronomy
Supporter of the Campaign for Dark Skies

Membership application and Gift Aid declaration

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Full name:

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e-mail address:

Subscription rate:	Full	£25.00	(year)	£12.50	(half year)
	Concession	£12.50		£6.25	
	Partnership	£37.50		£18.75	

Concession = under-18 / full-time student / unemployed and receiving benefits

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.

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Date: