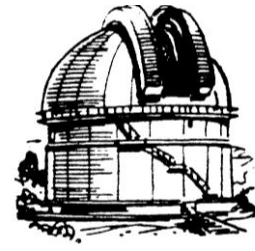


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# Journal

*of the*



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## Nottingham Astronomical Society

November 2008

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**Inside this issue**

- Sky Notes for November
- Diary Dates
- AGM Agenda
- Advertisements
- E-Services
- Membership application form
- Society Information

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

at the

**British Geological Survey**

Nicker Hill, Keyworth

**8 pm (doors open at 7.30pm)**

**Tonight we hold our**

**Annual General Meeting**

**for 2008**

**PROSPECTS FOR THE HUBBLE SERVICING MISSION**

NASA has given the go-ahead for the space shuttle Endeavour to be launched on November 14<sup>th</sup> on a mission to the International Space Station. However, work to test a component needed by the Hubble Space Telescope will not be completed in time to be launched aboard the shuttle Atlantis next February. That flight, the Hubble Servicing Mission 4, was originally was scheduled to be launched on October 14<sup>th</sup> this year, but it was delayed when a critical science data relay unit aboard the observatory failed in September. NASA decided to delay the HST flight until mid-February to give engineers time to test replacement electronic gear, but problems with the equipment will require additional work before it is ready for use, so it does not seem that the long-awaited servicing of Hubble will take place before May at the earliest.

# Sky Notes

## 2008 November

Compiled by Roy Gretton



### PHASES OF THE MOON

First Quarter occurs two hours before dawn on November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Full Moon occurs an hour before dawn on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Last Quarter occurs on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>  
New Moon occurs an hour after sunset on the 27<sup>th</sup>

### OCCULTATION OF THE PLEIADES

The Moon, a few hours after Full, will pass in front of the open cluster of the Pleiades on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Alcyone, the brightest of the Pleiades, will disappear from view at about 7.15 pm, and reappear shortly before 8.15 pm.

### THE PLANETS

You may be able to catch sight of **Mercury** in the morning sky at the beginning of November, as it rises about an hour before the Sun. Thereafter it moves back toward the Sun, and reaches superior conjunction on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Venus** has been an evening star for over four months now, yet has been difficult to spot due to its low altitude and fairly close proximity to the Sun. But watch during November, as it gradually increases in prominence, although it will still be low down in the constellation of Sagittarius. On the last day of the month it will be a brilliant magnitude -4 object two degrees south of the fainter (magnitude -2) Jupiter.

**Mars** is unobservable this month.

**Jupiter** is becoming increasingly difficult to observe, as it gets closer to the Sun in the evening sky. However, it is still fairly easy to spot at the beginning of November, and will be close to the much brighter Venus at the close of the month (see above).

**Saturn** is now drawing away from the Sun in the morning sky, and at the start of November rises about 2 a.m. You will find it about 20 degrees east of Regulus in the constellation of Leo. At magnitude +1, the planet looks considerably less bright than it has been in recent years, owing to the fact that we are viewing the rings almost edge-on, so they reflect very little sunlight in our direction.

**Uranus** (magnitude 5.8) is a binocular object in the constellation of Aquarius, about three degrees northeast of Phi Aquarii (magnitude 4).

**Neptune** (magnitude 7.8), is a more challenging object in the constellation of Capricornus.

### METEORS

The famous **Leonids**, which reach the peak of their activity on November 17<sup>th</sup>, will be badly affected by moonlight this year. About 20 meteors per hour would be expected under ideal conditions.

### VARIABLE STAR: Algol

There are five minima of this **eclipsing binary** visible from the UK this month. They occur on November 9<sup>th</sup> (4.50 am), the 12<sup>th</sup> (1.35 am), the 14<sup>th</sup> (about 10.25 pm), the 17<sup>th</sup> (7.20 pm) and the 29<sup>th</sup> (6.30 am). The star dims from its normal brightness (magnitude 2.1) to magnitude 3.4 over a period of 4.8 hours.

## DIARY DATES 2008-09

### Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

Our programme for the coming months is below. Don't forget to check our website: <http://beehive.thisisnottingham.co.uk/nottinghamastro> for the latest information about the Society's meetings and observing sessions.

#### Thursday 6 November 2008

British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

#### Annual General Meeting 2008

please see the Agenda in this issue of the Journal

#### Thursday 4 December 2008

British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

#### The BGS 3-D Suite

Another opportunity to view planetary images in 3D.  
With thanks to Doug Tragheim of the BGS

#### Thursday 8 January 2009

*Please note that this is the second Thursday in the month!*

British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

#### Members' Evening

featuring a talk, 'Astrophysics for Beginners'  
by NAS member Julian Onions

#### Thursday 5 February 2009

British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Talk: **'The time has come...!**

**Dr Paul Roebuck**

#### Thursday 5 March 2009

British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Talk: **'A Long Time Ago in Galaxies Far, Far Away'**

**Dr Amanda Bauer**

of the School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Nottingham

#### Thursday 2 April 2009

British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)  
Topic to be confirmed

#### Thursday 7 May 2009

British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Talk: **'The Lost Gardens of Fireside:  
Where did James Nasmyth live?'**

**Kevin Kilburn FRAS**

**Thursday 4 June 2009**

British Geological Survey, Keyworth

8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Talk: **'The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence'**

Dr Mike Leggett FRAS

**Thursday 2 July 2009**

British Geological Survey, Keyworth

8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Talk: **'Edwin Hubble'**

Dr Ann Bonell

***August - Summer break***

**Thursday 3 September 2009**

British Geological Survey, Keyworth

8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Topic to be confirmed

**Thursday 1 October 2009**

British Geological Survey, Keyworth

8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Talk: **'Sounding out the Sun'**

Dr Roger New

Sheffield Hallam University

*If you know of anyone who is willing to give an astronomy or science-related talk at one of our monthly meetings, please let the Secretary (or any committee member) have their contact details*

Nottingham Astronomical Society  
**Annual General Meeting**

8.00pm, Thursday 6 November 2008 at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
**AGENDA**

1. President declares the 2008 AGM open
2. Approval of minutes of the 2007 AGM
3. Arising from minutes
4. President's report
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Observatory and Large Telescope
8. Journal Editor's report
9. Campaign for Dark Skies

**10. Membership fees.** Committee proposes that membership fees for the next society year should be held at the following rates: Adult: **£25** Under-18s, full-time students and concessions **£12.50**

**11. Clarification of concessionary membership fee**

Members aged **under 18 years, full-time students, and members receiving Jobseeker's Allowance** are entitled to pay the concessionary rate (currently £12.50).

For other **adult** members, the committee wishes to establish clarity of the rules on concessions. Committee has considered the options below and recommend **option 1**. At this AGM, members are invited to vote for the option of their choice. The option receiving the most votes will become the new rule for concessions for the Society's year from 1 October 2009.

**Option 1.** The concessionary rate applies to members who receive the State Pension (at whatever age)

**Option 2.** The concessionary rate applies to members aged 60 or over

**Option 3.** The concessionary rate applies to members aged 65 or over

**Option 4.** The concessionary rate is abolished for all **adult** members (except full time students and those on Jobseekers allowance). Adults pay full rate.

12. The President will call on the 2007-08 committee to stand down.

**13. Election of Committee for 2008-09:**

Committee members are trustees of the Nottingham Astronomical Society, Registered Charity No. 1066645

**President: Dr Fred Hopper** holds this post for a two-year term, ending at AGM, November 2009.

All of the following committee posts are open to any adult member of the society:

**Vice-President** Candidate: **Dr Roy Gretton**

**Director of Observing** Candidate: **John Hurst**

**Secretary** Candidate: **Robert Bush**

**Curator of Instruments** Candidate: **John Hurst**

**Treasurer** Candidate: **Sam Boote**

**Campaign for Dark Skies** [vacant]

**Journal Editor** Candidate: **Dr Roy Gretton**

**Ordinary Committee Members** Candidates:  
**Kevin Greally, Dorothy Sowerby, Joe Sowerby**

Any further candidates for ordinary committee members

14. Any other business

15. AGM close.

## Small Advertisements

### Various items of equipment for sale

Celestron Nexstar 5 telescope and tripod etc. (including nylon cover and power supply)	£395
Pop-up observatory tent	£95
Carl Zeiss 10x50 binoculars with leather case	£25
Meade 9.7 Super Plossl eyepiece	£25
Celestron 3.6 Plossl eyepiece	£10
Celestron 90-degree erecting diagonal	£10
sodium light pollution filter	£10

**Please contact Sam Boote**  
**s.boote@bcs.org**  
**0115 937 4644**

### **For Sale**

10 inch reflector telescope, focal length 63 inches  
with RA Drive  
two eyepieces  
and storage shed

Any reasonable offer accepted

Phone **Mr Chambers**  
0115 914 1454

## **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 'Beehive' website:

<http://beehive.thisisnottingham.co.uk/nottinghamastro>

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

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

[nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk)

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

### **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, its Committee or Members.*

## NAS Membership application 2008/09

If you would like to join the Nottingham Astronomical Society, please complete the form below. Hand the slip and payment (cheque or cash) to the Treasurer at any of the Society's meetings.

If paying by cheque, please make it payable to **Nottingham Astronomical Society**. Alternatively, you may post the slip and your cheque (*not cash*) to

**Sam Boote, Treasurer**  
**Nottingham Astronomical Society**  
**17 Rannock Gardens**  
**Keyworth**  
**Nottingham NG12 5FQ**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address including postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*please tick one box*

Subscription rate:	Normal	£25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Concession	£12.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Half-year*	£12.50	<input type="checkbox"/>

*\*Half-year is available from 1 April to 30 September*

### **Gift Aid**

Do you pay Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax? If so, would you like to register for Gift Aid? Please ask the Treasurer for a Gift Aid declaration form. You need to fill it in only once. As a registered charity, the Society will get £6.25 from the taxman for each £25 subscription. You have to be a UK tax payer in order to participate in Gift Aid.

# 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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**PRESIDENT:**

**Fred Hopper**

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**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**Dr Roy Gretton**

e-mail: [roygretton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roygretton@hotmail.co.uk)

**SECRETARY:**

e-mail: [nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk)

**TREASURER:**

**Sam Boote**

e-mail: [s.boote@bcs.org](mailto:s.boote@bcs.org)

**JOURNAL EDITOR:**

**Dr Roy Gretton**

e-mail: [roygretton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roygretton@hotmail.co.uk)

**DIRECTOR OF OBSERVING and  
CURATOR OF INSTRUMENTS**

**John Hurst**

email: [jmhurst@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jmhurst@hotmail.co.uk)

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

**ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Joe Sowerby**

**Dorothy Sowerby**

**Kevin Greally**

**Robert Bush**

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## Meetings

Our meetings, often with an illustrated talk by a guest speaker, are held on the first Thursday of each month (except in August & October) 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 2007-08

Adult £25

Junior (under 18 years) £12.50

Concessions\* £12.50

(\*Full-time student, jobseeker's allowance, basic state pension)

Subscriptions become due on 1 October.

Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 1st April. 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 [nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.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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