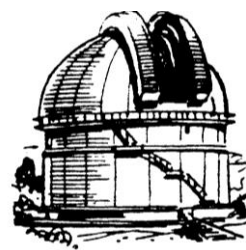


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# Journal

of the



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## Nottingham Astronomical Society

November 2010

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### Inside this issue

- Sky Notes for November
- Diary Dates
- Small Advertisements
- E-services
- Membership application form
- Society Information

Thursday, 4<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

*All members of the Society are encouraged to attend*

### DISCOVERY'S LAST MISSION

As this edition of the Journal "goes to press", the final launch of the space shuttle *Discovery* is scheduled for 3.52 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, with forecasters predicting a 70 percent probability that the weather will be suitable. With EDT being 4 hours behind GMT, the launch should be at 7.52 pm our time. If the normal trajectory is followed, the shuttle will be passing over the UK about 20 minutes after launch.

*Discovery's* final mission is to the International Space Station. If the launch occurs on schedule, *Discovery* will dock with the station around 12:36 pm EDT on Friday, after which two space walks are planned, on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Of course, space missions are notoriously subject to unforeseen delays, so it remains to be seen if things will actually happen on time.

*Discovery's* six-member crew, all of whom have flown on shuttle missions before, plan to deliver a pressurized cargo module loaded with equipment and supplies, and an external storage platform carrying a spare set of cooling system radiators. The flight will be *Discovery's* 39<sup>th</sup> mission. Since it first travelled into space on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1984, it has made more flights than any other member of NASA's shuttle fleet. *Discovery* most famously carried the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit in April 1990, and also provided both the second and third Hubble servicing missions (in February 1997 and December 1999).

# Sky Notes

## November 2010

Compiled by Roy Gretton



### PHASES OF THE MOON

New Moon occurs on November 6<sup>th</sup>

First Quarter occurs on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Full Moon occurs on the 21<sup>st</sup>

Last Quarter occurs on the 28<sup>th</sup>

This month the Moon is closest to Earth on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and furthest from Earth on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### THE PLANETS

**Mercury** is an evening object during November, but due to its low declination (almost 26 degrees south of the equator by the end of the month) it is effectively unobservable from Britain.

**Venus**, having passed through inferior conjunction on October 29<sup>th</sup>, is unobservable as November begins, but starts to make an appearance as a 'morning star' by the close of the month.

**Mars** is unobservable this month.

**Jupiter** continues to dominate the evening sky throughout November, appearing as a bright off-white object in the south and southwest. It will, however, be fading somewhat, its equator diameter shrinking in angular size from 47 arcseconds at the beginning of the month to 43 arcseconds by the end.

**Saturn** is unobservable this month.

**Uranus** is a magnitude 5.8 object in the constellation of Pisces, easy to find because it is within 3 degrees of Jupiter.

**Neptune** is virtually unobservable this month.

### METEORS

The **Leonids** are, of course, November's most prominent meteor shower, but this year their maximum activity, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, occurs quite close to Full Moon, so observation will be difficult. Much more favourable are the **Taurids**, which have a maximum activity on November 5<sup>th</sup>, very close to New Moon. Taurids tend to be bright, slow-moving meteors, and about ten events per hour are expected at maximum.

## DIARY DATES 2010-11

### Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

Our programme for the coming months is below. Don't forget to check our website:  
[www.nottinghamastro.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamastro.org.uk)  
for the latest information about the Society's meetings and observing sessions.

**Thursday 4th November 2010**  
British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)  
**Annual General Meeting 2010**

**Thursday 2nd December 2010**  
British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
**8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)**

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 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**  
British Geological Survey, Keyworth  
**8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)**

Talk: "**21<sup>st</sup> Century Telescopes**"

**Prof Mike Merrifield**  
School of Physics and Astronomy  
University of Nottingham

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

## 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](mailto:rockvision@btinternet.com) (Keyworth)

Mike Sumbler

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### 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](http://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](mailto:info@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

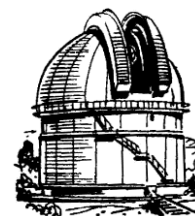
You don't have to be a Society member to take advantage of this service.

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

# 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

**Title:**

**Full name:**

**Full home address:**

**Postcode:**

**Telephone:**

**e-mail address:**

<b>Subscription rate:</b>	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.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

# 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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## **ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Joe Sowerby**

**Dorothy Sowerby**

**Kevin Greally**

**David Anderson**

**Julie Morledge**

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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) 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 2009/10**

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

Subscriptions become due on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 1<sup>st</sup> 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 [info@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## **The Nottingham Astronomical Society**

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