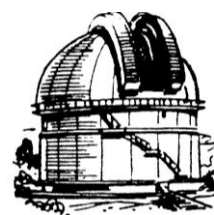

Journal

of the
Nottingham Astronomical Society



October 2002

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Thursday 3rd October

Djanogly C.T.C.
Doors open from 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting

***Please do come along to the AGM and
participate in the discussion and voting***

***See inside this issue of the Journal
for the Agenda***

BAA Handbook 2003

Order your copy now

The British Astronomical Association Handbook for 2003 is available to NAS members at the price of £9. If you would like a copy, Mike Provost will be taking orders for the Handbook up to (and including) the December meeting.

Delivery of the Handbooks will be in early January.

Next month's meeting

Thursday, 7th November

Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open from 7.30pm

Guest speaker

Madeline Cox, of Bassetlaw Astronomical Society

"History of the Constellations"

Sky Notes

October 2002



The dark evenings arrive and the summer constellations begin to give way to those of winter. If skies are clear, now is a good time to get out the telescope or binoculars and take a look around the night sky...

The Moon

New Moon	6d 11h
First quarter	13d 06h
Full Moon	21d 07h
Last Quarter	29d 05h

The Planets

Mercury: The innermost planet is at greatest western elongation on 13 October. It is an early morning object and by late in the month should be visible low in the east just before dawn, at magnitude -1.0 . On the 10th of the month, Mercury will be only 3 degrees below a much fainter Mars.

Venus: In the western sky but effectively hidden in twilight during all but the first few days of October, as the planet heads towards inferior conjunction on the 31st.

Mars: A pre-dawn morning object, moving from Leo to Virgo during the month. But Mars is about as faint and small as it can get, at magnitude 1.8 and 3.6 arc minutes in diameter, it is a tiny target in the telescope. Close to Mercury on the 10th, as mentioned above.

Jupiter: Offers a rather better prospect for observation this month. Magnitude is -2.0 and by the end of the month the banded planet will be rising by 23.00 UT (We'll have put back our clocks to GMT [= UT] by then, of course). Jupiter is in Cancer and is best seen when it rises higher in the sky in the early hours.

Saturn: At magnitude 0.0 and nicely placed in Orion, rising at a reasonable 19h UT by the end of the month.

Uranus: In Capricornus, at magnitude 5.7 and setting at around midnight by month's end.

Neptune: Also in Capricornus. Magnitude is 7.8 and the planet sets around 22h 30 by the 31st.

Meteors

The Orionids reach a maximum from the 20th to 22nd, but this coincides with the full Moon, so conditions are unfavourable.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

October 3rd 2002

1. MEETING OPEN
President to call the meeting to order.
2. MINUTES OF THE 2001 OCTOBER 4th AGM
3. ARISING FROM MINUTES
4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
5. SECRETARY'S REPORT
6. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
It is necessary for members to vote to accept or reject the Financial Statement after it is presented and debated.
7. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT
8. CAMPAIGN FOR DARK SKIES OFFICER'S REPORT
9. CHANGES TO FUTURE AGM DATES
It is proposed by the 2001/02 Committee that "the Annual General Meeting of the Society should be moved from October to November as from 2003 and thereafter."
10. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE
10A the president **Mr. David Lukehurst** has served his two full two-year term of Office, he will nominate his successor. **Mr. Paul Stocks** is the presidential nomination for the 2002 to 2004 period. The motion does not require a seconder, but does require a vote of approval by the majority of members. Failure to approve the motion will open the Office of President to nominations from the floor.
Upon approval the new president will call upon the committee to stand down and open the meeting to nominations.
10B Nominations are required for

Vice President(s)	<i>Mr. Peter Davison & Dr. Roy Gretton</i>
Secretary	<i>Mr. Carl Brennan</i>
Treasurer	<i>Dr. Mike Provost</i>
Curator of Instruments	<i>Mr. Dave Lukehurst</i>
Journal Editor	<i>Dr. Roy Gretton</i>
Campaign for Dark Skies Officer	<i>Mr. Greg Eisenhauer</i>
Other members of the Committee	

The names in italics are the proposal(s) of the outgoing committee. The membership is free to nominate and vote on alternatives.
11. SUBSCRIPTIONS
11A It is proposed by the 01/2002 Committee "The Full Adult Membership fee should remain at £22.00"
11B It is proposed by the 01/2002 Committee "The Concessionary Subscription fee should remain at £11.00"
11C It is proposed by the 01/2002 Committee "The Junior Membership fee should remain at £11.00"
12. MEETING CHARGES
It is proposed by the 01/2002 Committee "Meeting Charges remain unchanged"
13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
14. MEETING CLOSE
President to close the meeting, giving details of the first meeting of the new committee, and opening a short ordinary meeting of the Society

AGM NOTICE

It is proposed by the 2001/02 Committee that “the Annual General Meeting of the Society should be moved from October to November as from 2003 and thereafter.”

This motion will be put to members at the Annual General Meeting to be held on **2002 October 3rd**. There are two main reasons for considering moving the AGM to November. The first is a simple matter of the clash with the Goose Fair, which in recent years has meant meeting attendance is down simply because some members just could not get to the venue with the traffic in the city. The second is a little more complex. The treasurer would like more time to present a full end of session account(s) to the members. In cases of the AGM being on October 1st the Treasurer has less than 24 hours in which to finalise the account(s) and get them approved by an outside (non-member).

Committee asks in advance that you consider this motion and make known any objection in advance to the Secretary at:

40 Swindon Close, The Vale, Giltbrook, Nottingham, NG16 2WD

Telephone 0115 854 8687

E- mail carl.stella@virgin.net or carl.brennan@ntlworld.com

CORRECTION TO PREVIOUS COPIES OF THIS NOTICE

Copies of this Notice in previous issues of the NAS Journal have included the statement:

“Vote “yes” and get 13 months membership for the price of 12”.

This statement is incorrect and is withdrawn. The committee’s proposal is to move the AGM from October to November. The membership period remains at 12 months, with subscriptions falling due on 1st October each year.

Why not join the NAS committee?

(An abridged version of last month’s article, hopefully without any “typos”!)

At the AGM on 3rd October, Nottingham Astronomical Society members will be electing their new committee for the year 2002-03.

Some new faces would be very welcome on the committee, so why not think about standing this year? Don’t forget that you can join the committee as an “ordinary member” without any specific responsibilities and have your say in how the Society moves forward into 2003 and beyond.

NAS committee meetings are usually held about once every two months and last a couple of hours or less. All you need do as an ordinary committee member is turn up and put your views forward. You do not need a detailed knowledge of astronomy or telescopes! But maybe you have some ideas on how we can develop our Society for the benefit of all members?

So please do think about becoming a committee member. If you are able to spare a couple of hours or so every two months, just step forward at the AGM when the committee is elected. Your help to the Society will be very much welcomed.

Paul Stocks

Nominee for NAS President, 2002-04

DIARY DATES

by Carl Brennan

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY 2002

October 3rd Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open 7.30pm

A.G.M.

Please do make a special effort to attend this AGM. There are a number of proposed changes to the Society, which will be very important.

November 7th Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open from 7.30pm

HISTORY OF THE CONSTELLATIONS

Madeline Cox, Bassetlaw Astronomical Society

December 5th Djanogly C.T.C.

Doors open from 7.30pm

SUNSPOTS

Dr. Paul Mathews, University of Nottingham **T.B.C.**

OTHER EVENTS

4th to 6th October Whirlpool Star Party, Birr, Ireland, <http://goree.indigo.ie/~sdbell>

Spears include, Jack Newton, Danny Lennon, Barrie Jones, Johnjoe McFadden, David Lunt, Antony Hewish, and John Dobson

19th October (Saturday) FAS AGM AND CONVENTION. Lecture Theatre 1, in the Ken Edwards Building, University of Leicester. There will be a separate display. Exhibition and general “milling about” area in the Belvoir City Suite. Speakers so far confirmed are Professor Ken Pounds, Dr. Martin Barstow, Dr. Allan Mills, Dr. Ann Bonnell, and Paul Money. Should be a very good out, and within easy reach of most NAS members. Advance tickets (£7) from Alan Drummond, 27 York Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 5JS, (make cheque payable to “The Federation of Astronomical Societies”) – Tickets £8.00 on the door.

30th October BAA AGM 17.30 hrs at 23 Savile Row, London. Might be worth a special effort to visit as the Presidential Address is by Mr. Guy Hurst – “**UK Nova/Supernova Patrol: The first 25years**” (Guy has been the editor of *The Astronomer* since before I can remember.

Saturday November 30th - Leeds Astromeeet. Doors open 9.00am, Convention starts 10.00am, ends 18.30pm, price £7.00.

You might like to visit <http://www.leedsastronomy.org.uk/>

where you will find details. Note the change of venue, and increased price this year - but I think when you've had a look at the venue and the speakers it is still good value for money.

6th to 8th December SPA Astronomy Weekend to be held at Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire. A great list of speakers including Dr Ian Morrison. A £15 deposit is needed by September 20th, full weekend cost £95 (full board). For more information contact Frank Tobin, 16 Penton Hook Road, Staines, Middx. TW18 2PF

10th May 2003 Eclipse 10.30am to 4.15pm National Maritime Museum. A simple day course to look at this natural phenomenon and the science we can learn. Interesting collection of speakers. Cost £28.00 (£16 concessions). More information on 02083126747/6648, E-mail openmuseum@nmm.ac.uk , lstone@nmm.ac.uk or visit ww.nmm.ac.uk

6th June 2003 Extraterrestrial Life 10.30am to 4.15pm National Maritime Museum. Cost £28.00 (£16 concessions). More information on 02083126747/6648, E-mail openmuseum@nmm.ac.uk , lstone@nmm.ac.uk or visit ww.nmm.ac.uk

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 **Provisional Programme 2003**

January 2nd

MEMBERS NIGHT; Bring along some examples of your work/projects

February 6th

OBSERVING THE UNIVERSE; Alfonso Aragon-Salamanca, Department of Physics and astronomy, University of Nottingham

March 6th

EINSTEIN VERSUS STAR TREK: Les Jepson, Bassetlaw Astronomical Society

April 3rd

LARGE-SCALE STRUCTURE AND EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSE; Dr. Steve Maddox, School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Nottingham

September 4th

MARS ODYSSEY; Andy Lund, The Planetary Society, UK Regional Coordinator

October 2nd

OBSERVATORY MEETING NIGHT

November 6th

A.G.M.

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, it's Committee or Members.

For more information about the Nottingham Astronomical Society please send a C5 SAE to the Secretary Carl Brennan at 40 Swindon Close, The Vale, Giltbrook, NOTTINGHAM, NG16 2WD. Telephone 0115 854 8687
E-mail carl.stella@virgin.net

Campaign for Dark Skies 2001/02

The local scene

The Society now contributes to the Campaign for Dark Skies newsletter, which is issued twice annually. This will keep the Society informed about national developments, and it provides us with a voice to air any local difficulties. We also have copies of the "Fifteen ways to help CfDS".

National News

The CfDS maintains a website at www.dark-skies.freeserve.org.uk where you can find out the latest news, although the newsletter tends to be more up to date. There are 84 officers nationally who coordinate the lobby for solutions to excessive lighting. I am registered as a "correspondent", that is someone who can be asked for advice, but not an active "officer" such as James Ince for North Notts.

The CfDS has had marked success in been lobbying retailers of security lighting during 2002, including B & Q, to try to encourage reduced wattage and sensitive aiming and correct mounting by including appropriate instructions. B & Q are probably the largest retailers of domestic outdoor lights. They now feature lower wattage, anti pollution domestic outdoor lights including the recommended Astrica types. The Rottweiler lights are much less in evidence. Catalogues show lighting pointing downwards, and their instructions do include sensitive aiming directives. Representations continue with other retailers. Well done CfDS.

The Home Office have issued detailed directives on the effectiveness, or otherwise, of domestic security lighting and a summary of their conclusions is that low level, minimum wattage, downward pointing lighting is most effective.

If anyone would like details of these directives, or the leaflet "Starry starry night, please let Greg Eisenhauer or Chrissie Wells know.

International Perspective

Members might be interested in the website www.lightpollution.it/dmsp which links to a satellite earth observing Swiss website. This enables you to look at real time global light pollution, wherever in the world you want to view, including the United Kingdom!

The big news internationally during 2002 has to be the Anti Light Pollution Legislation enacted by the Czech republic, the first country to do so. A Czech astronomer was instrumental in promoting and drafting the legislation, an inspiration to us all. The improvement is said to be spectacular. CfDS is of course working to try to replicate the Czech success. Also, in Lombardy in Italy 25000 citizens signed petitions that resulted in the Lombardy law against obtrusive outdoor lighting. This directs the use of fully shielded light fixtures.

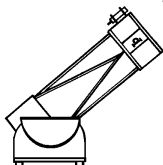
*** Bob Mizon F.R.A.S. (of CfDS) has written the first single author book in English on light pollution entitled "Light Pollution: Responses and Remedies" (ISBN 1-85233-497-5) orders@svl.co Price £22.00**

Chrissie Wells

Small Advertisements

David Lukehurst

Astronomical Telescope Maker



Large, Highly Portable Dobsonians

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Selection of eyepieces, Barlow lens, star diagonals.

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on 0115 923 0040**

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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
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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.

Proposed Annual Subscriptions, 2002-03

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

(Full time student, UB40, Senior Citizens)

Subscriptions become due on 1 October. 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.
