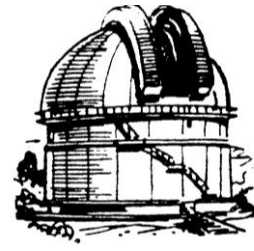


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# Journal

*of the*



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## Nottingham Astronomical Society

October 2004

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Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October

7.30 p.m.

Meeting at the

### **NAS OBSERVATORY**

with opportunity, weather permitting,  
to use the newly-installed

### **Large Telescope**

*(see notice later in this Journal)*

**Inside this issue**

- Sky Notes for October
- Directions for the October meeting
- Diary Dates
- Advertisements
- E-Services
- Membership application form

### **FINDING EXOPLANETS WITH SMALL TELESCOPES**

A Jupiter-sized extrasolar planet has been discovered by an observer belonging to the Astrophysical Institute of the Canaries, using a 4-inch aperture telescope.

Much larger telescopes have now begun to find extrasolar planets comparable in size to Neptune. The discoveries of three of these were announced in August.

# Sky Notes

## 2004 October

Compiled by Roy Gretton

*All times quoted are U.T.*



### THE MOON

Last Quarter	6d 10h 12m
New Moon	14d 02h 48m
First Quarter	20d 21h 59m
Full Moon	28d 03h 07m

### THE PLANETS

**Mercury** passes through superior conjunction on October 5<sup>th</sup>, and is not well placed for observation, even at the end of the month.

**Venus** continues to be a brilliant object in the morning sky. In the middle of October it will be 38 degrees from the Sun, and shining with a magnitude of -3.9. It will be 5 degrees to the west of the crescent Moon on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Mars** continues to be unobservable this month, having passed through conjunction with the Sun on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Jupiter**, too, is virtually unobservable, having passed through conjunction on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

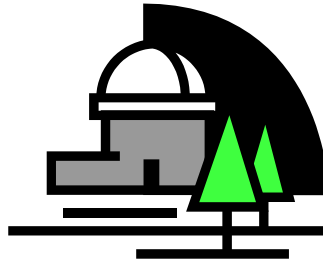
**Saturn** is increasing in prominence in the morning sky, and will be about 50° above the horizon at dawn, magnitude 0.2. With Castor and Pollux, Saturn will be part of an attractive trio.

**Uranus** and **Neptune** may be observed in the evening, Uranus at magnitude 5.7 being in Aquarius, and Neptune at magnitude 7.8 in Capricornus.

### METEORS

The **Orionids** are favourable for observation this month. They are at maximum activity on October 20<sup>th</sup>, with about 25 meteors per hour.

The **Taurids** also begin in October, although their maximum activity is not anticipated to occur until November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is worth looking out for them in the last week of the month.



**NAS Observatory Meeting  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2004  
7.30pm**

Our 7<sup>th</sup> **October** meeting will be held at the **NAS Observatory site at Cotgrave reservoir**. Please do come along and see how we are progressing with our large telescope. If you have not been to the site before, it's a good chance to see what all the technical discussions at our meetings have been about!

Please wear warm clothing. There is almost always a cold wind at the site and space inside the dome and annexe is limited. A torch and a flask with a warm drink are useful items to bring along.

**To avoid a large number of cars arriving at the site, the NAS committee recommends that members initially meet up in the car park of the "Lime Kiln Inn"**. This is a short distance along the road from the observatory site. And for those of you who have not yet been to the observatory, the Lime Kiln Inn is much easier to find (and very conveniently placed for a visit after the meeting!)

**DIRECTIONS**

The simplest way to find the **Lime Kiln Inn** by using main roads is to drive to the **A46** and head southwards in the direction of Leicester. Look for a Shell petrol station on the left, just past a set of traffic lights. **Continue straight on along the A46** for another half mile, passing over the brow of a small hill past a "road narrows" sign. Then take the **left** turn signed "**Colston Bassett 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles**".

Drive along this road for about a mile and you will reach the Lime Kiln Inn on the right, next to a crossroads. (You will in fact have passed the observatory turning but it is difficult to find in the dark.)

You can access the "Multimap" webpage map of the area from the link below:

[www.multimap.com/map/browse.cgi?lat=52.9082&lon=-0.9903&scale=25000&icon=x](http://www.multimap.com/map/browse.cgi?lat=52.9082&lon=-0.9903&scale=25000&icon=x)

On the map, the "PH" symbol marks the location of The Lime Kiln Inn.

Please arrive as close to **7.30pm** as you can and look for the group of NAS members in the car park. Committee members will be on hand to give lifts to and from the observatory site, between 7.30 and 7.45. The time(s) of return from the observatory to the Lime Kiln can be arranged on the evening, as those attending wish.

## DIARY DATES

### Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October

*From 7.30pm*

#### **Meeting at the NAS Observatory Site**

*See full details in this issue of the Journal*

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Djanogly CTC

*Doors open from 7.30pm*

**NAS**

#### **Annual General Meeting, 2004**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Djanogly CTC

*Doors open 7.30pm*

#### **“X-Planes and Lifting Bodies”**

**James Ince**

Bassetlaw Astronomical Society

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Djanogly CTC

*Doors open 7.30pm*

#### **Members' Evening**

February 2005 onwards

I am now booking speakers for our 2005 programme of meetings.

New guest speakers are always welcome.

If you know of anyone who could give a talk to the Society on astronomy, space science or perhaps another science topic, please let me have their contact details!

Many thanks,  
Paul Stocks  
NAS Secretary

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

## DIARY DATES continued

### Other events

#### Special Events at the National Space Centre

Exploration Drive, Leicester LE4 5NS

[www.spacecentre.co.uk/](http://www.spacecentre.co.uk/)

#### Friday 15th October

2.30 – 3.30 pm

Meet astronaut **Michael Foale** in the Space Centre Galleries for autograph signings. FREE to all Space Centre Ticket holders.

#### Also on Friday 15th October

3.30 – 5.00 pm

**Michael Foale** will giving an illustrated presentation about his career in space and answering your questions about what it is like to live and work on the International Space Station. FREE EVENT to all Space Centre Ticket holders. **Places are limited, please book in advance by calling 0116 2582111.**

#### Family Learning Weekend

16th - 17th October 2004

#### “Make a Martian Rover”

Two workshops held each afternoon on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th October, FREE to Space Centre Ticket Holders on a first come, first-served basis.

#### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November

### Leeds Astromet 2004

Brunswick Building, Leeds Metropolitan University (Off Merrion Way), Leeds

#### Programme:

9.00 - Doors open

10.00 - 'Observing Comets' - Nick James (BAA)

11.35 - 'Peering into the furnace - the microwave background and the accelerating universe' - Dr Rob Jeffries (Keele University)

13.50 - 'How to build a galaxy' - Prof. Michael Merrifield (Nottingham University)

15.25 - 'Double neutron stars binaries' - Dr Duncan Lorimer (University of Manchester)

17.10 - 'John Flamsteed, 1646-1719, the first Astronomer Royal' - Dr Allan Chapman (Oxford University)

Details and location map are available on the following website:

<http://www.leedsastronomy.org.uk>

## Small Advertisements

### For Sale

**Maksutov 6-inch by Drew.** 2x2-inch finderscopes, equatorial tripod mount with circles, eyepiece tray, carry box. Selection of eyepieces, Barlow lens, star diagonals.

Buyer collects. **£495** for prompt sale.

**Telephone Peter Davison  
on 0115 923 0040**

## The Widescreen Centre

18, LADY BAY ROAD ,Nottingham, NG2 5BJ  
0115 945 5459 FAX: 0115 945 5362

WebShop: [www.widescreen-centre.co.uk](http://www.widescreen-centre.co.uk)  
[www.telescopes-direct.com](http://www.telescopes-direct.com)

eMail: [call@widescreen-centre.co.uk](mailto:call@widescreen-centre.co.uk)

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

## The Nottingham Astronomical Society: E – SERVICES

### *The Journal*

To register for your FREE Journal, just E-mail Carl Brennan at [carl.stella@virgin.net](mailto:carl.stella@virgin.net) - You don't have to be a Society member to take advantage of this service.

### *Observatory Group*

A web group page and message service has been set up at

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/nottinghamastronomicalsociety/>

It will be used for circulating information about the observatory construction and projects, large telescope up-dates, and use of the site by members of the Observatory Group. Please visit the web site and E-mail on line if you wish to join (NAS Members only)

### **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.*

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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 Paul Stocks, Hon. Secretary, **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, 22 Killerton Park Drive, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7SB

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 £23
- Junior (17 years or under) £11.50
- Concession (*full time student, UB40, Senior Citizen*) £11.50

# 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:**

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Tel: 01949 875857

e-mail: [greg.eisenhauer@ntlworld.com](mailto:greg.eisenhauer@ntlworld.com)

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**Alan Heath** (Ex. Dir. BAA Saturn Section)

## **VICE PRESIDENTS:**

**David Lukehurst**

e-mail: [gildor@ntlworld.com](mailto:gildor@ntlworld.com)

website: [www.dobsonians.co.uk](http://www.dobsonians.co.uk)

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## **CURATOR OF INSTRUMENTS**

**David Lukehurst**

e-mail: [gildor@ntlworld.com](mailto:gildor@ntlworld.com)

## **CAMPAIGN FOR DARK SKIES:**

**Greg Eisenhauer**

## **ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Joe Sowerby**

**Dorothy Sowerby**

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## **Meetings**

Formal monthly meetings, with speakers, are held on the first Thursday of each month (except August, and occasionally other months as announced) 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, 2003-04**

Full Adult:	£23
Junior ( <i>17 years or under</i> )	£11.50
Concessions	£11.50

(*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.**

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If you would like further information about the **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, or would like to become a member, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Paul Stocks, 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.

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