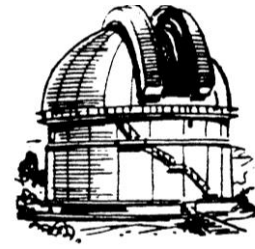

Journal

of the



Nottingham Astronomical Society

October 2005

Thursday October 6th

This evening we meet at the Society's

OBSERVATORY

(NOT at the City Academy)

with an opportunity, weather permitting,
to use the

LARGE TELESCOPE

Inside this issue

- Sky Notes for October
- Details of this month's meeting
- Diary Dates
- Advertisements
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- Membership application form
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**ANNULAR ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, VISIBLE AS A PARTIAL
ECLIPSE FROM GREAT BRITAIN**

On the morning of Monday, October 3rd, weather permitting, we will be treated to a partial solar eclipse. The eclipse begins at about ten minutes to nine BST, with maximum eclipse occurring about ten o'clock, when more than 60% of the Sun's disk will be hidden as seen from Nottingham. The eclipse ends at about a quarter past eleven.

Important note: do not attempt to observe the eclipse through a telescope or binoculars unless you employ the method of eyepiece projection with a small aperture instrument. If observing with the naked eye, do so only through special eclipse glasses.

Sky Notes

2005 October

Compiled by Roy Gretton



British Summer Time this year ends at 2 a.m. on October 30th

PHASES OF THE MOON

New Moon occurs on the morning of October 3rd (with the bonus this month of an eclipse – see front page)

First Quarter occurs on the early evening of the 10th.

Full Moon occurs around midday on the 17th.

Last Quarter occurs in the small hours of the 25th.

THE PLANETS

Mercury will be an evening object for the whole month, but from our latitude it will be difficult to observe, setting soon after the Sun.

Venus is also an evening star and much brighter than Mercury, but because of its southerly declination (-26° by the end of the month) it is not in a favourable position for observation in October. Look very low in the southwest after sunset if you wish to spot this planet.

Mars continues to grow in apparent size, and to brighten throughout this month, in readiness for its opposition to the Sun, which will occur on November 7th. In the last week of October Mars reaches magnitude -2.2 , with an apparent diameter of 20 arcseconds. We are now entering the prime time for observation of Mars this year. Telescopic observation should be rewarding, provided you manage to get periods of good atmospheric ‘seeing’.

Jupiter is unobservable this month, as conjunction with the Sun occurs on the 22nd.

Saturn is a morning object in the constellation of Cancer. It will be rising about midnight (UT) in mid-October, and will have a magnitude of 0.3. Telescopic observation is becoming well worthwhile again.

Uranus and **Neptune** both are evening objects, low in the south. Uranus (magnitude 5.7) is in the constellation of Aquarius, while Neptune (magnitude 7.8) is in Capricornus.

METEORS

The Orionids are the most prolific shower this month, with up to 25 meteors observable per hour around maximum on October 20th. However, conditions are unfavourable this year, with the Moon being only three days after Full.

**NAS Observatory Meeting
Thursday 6th October
from 7.30pm**

Our Society's October meeting will be at the Observatory site. Do come along on the evening of the 6th as we plan to use the large telescope if the weather is suitable. And of course, you are very welcome to bring your own binoculars or telescope if you wish.

Even if the sky is cloudy, the meeting will be a good opportunity to see the progress that has been made with the observatory - all thanks to the hard work of NAS members.

Please bear in mind that some work remains to be done on the telescope and inside the observatory, but we are now getting close to having the telescope operational.

If you haven't visited the site before, please e-mail NAS Secretary Paul Stocks, at nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk for directions.

There is no NAS event at Djanogly City Academy in October – our next meeting there is the Society's AGM on Thursday 3rd November.

DIARY DATES

<p>Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society</p> <p>Our programme of meetings over the coming months is below. Don't forget to check our website: http://beehive.thisisnottingham.co.uk/nottinghamastro for the latest updates and details of Observatory work sessions.</p>
<p><u>Thursday 6 October 2005</u> NAS Observatory site from 7.30pm Observatory Evening</p> <p>All members and guests are welcome. For directions please e-mail nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk (There is no Society event at Djanogly this evening.)</p>
<p><u>Thursday 3 November 2005</u> Djanogly City Academy 7.30pm NAS Annual General Meeting 2005</p>
<p><u>Thursday 1 December 2005</u> Djanogly City Academy 7.30pm "Cosmic Collisions" Dennis Ashton Director, Sheffield Hallam University Star Centre</p>
<p><u>Thursday 5 January 2006</u> Djanogly City Academy 7.30pm Members' Evening</p>
<p><u>Thursday 2 February 2006</u> Djanogly City Academy 7.30pm "The Discovery of Pluto" Martin Lunn MBE</p> <p>A selection of astronomy books will also be on display to browse and buy if you wish.</p>

DIARY DATES (2)
Other Events

A slight clash of dates in November with TWO astronomy events in Yorkshire on the same day!

Saturday, 12 November 2005

Leeds Astromeet

Doors open 9.00 am

First speaker 10.00 am, Last speaker 5.10 pm

Tickets on the door: **£8.00**

Venue: **Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, Leeds University**

see <http://tldynamic.leeds.ac.uk/leisure/detail.asp?ID=193>

(a 350 seat auditorium with every type of lecture aid)

The 10th Anniversary of the 'Leeds Astromeet', which is justly regarded as one of the premier events in the national amateur astronomy calendar.

Speakers:

Professor John Dyson "Starburst Galaxies"

Professor Lionel Wilson "Recent findings on the Interaction between Volcanoes and Water on Mars"

Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale "Albert Einstein: a Scientific Genius"

Professor Carl Murray "Cassini Views the Solar System"

Dr Allan Chapman "Thomas HEC Espin (1858-1934): Grand Amateur Astronomer, Philanthropist and Eccentric"

Further details can be found on the Leeds Astronomical Society website:

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

Saturday, 12th November 2005

The British Astronomical Association 'Back To Basics' Workshop

The Regent Hotel, Regent Square, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN1 2DS, Tel 01302 364 180

The cost of this event is **£10.00 per head** (including lunch and refreshments). Booking in advance is necessary as places are limited. Bookings and remittance must be sent to the British Astronomical Association Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0DU. Email

office@britastro.org by

30th September 2005.

Booking forms can be found on the BAA web site (in PDF format) at

http://www.britastro.org/news/items/workshop_doncaster_booking.pdf or can be obtained from the BAA office.

The aim of this event is to help everyone who has recently become interested in astronomy learn some of the basic techniques and develop the interest to its full potential. During the day experienced people will be on hand to help answer any questions. There is a programme of talks and practical sessions plus retailers attending this event.

Solar Observing – Lyn Smith

Naked eye & Binocular observing of the Moon and Planets – Paul Money

Simple Variable Star Observing – Karen Holland

Touring the autumn constellations - Paul Money

Deep Sky Observations using simple equipment – Dr Stewart Moore.

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**

For Sale

**8¾-inch Newtonian telescope on
Dobsonian mount**

Built by David Lukehurst.
65x and 250x eyepieces, finderscope.
3 years old.
Hardly used, very good condition.

£375 or near offer

**Telephone Terry Naylor
on 0115 9815968**

The Widescreen Centre

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www.telescopes-direct.com

eMail: 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

'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

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

NAS Observatory Group

A web group page and message service (for NAS members only) is available at

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

It is used for circulating information to members about work at the observatory and use of the large telescope. If you are a member of the Society, you can join this online group by visiting the website and clicking on "Join this Group".

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.*

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 £24
- Junior (17 years or under) £12
- Concession (*full time student, UB40, etc*) £12

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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Tel: 01949 875857

e-mail: greg.eisenhauer@ntlworld.com

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT

Alan Heath (Ex. Dir. BAA Saturn Section)

VICE PRESIDENTS:

David Lukehurst

e-mail: gildor@ntlworld.com

website: www.dobsonians.co.uk

Dr Roy Gretton

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CAMPAIGN FOR DARK SKIES:

Greg Eisenhauer

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Joe Sowerby

Dorothy Sowerby

Fred Hopper

email: fwmh@nerc.ac.uk

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 Academy

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, 2004-05

Full Adult:	£24
Junior (<i>17 years or under</i>)	£12
Concessions	£12

(*Full time student, UB40, etc*)

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, 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.
