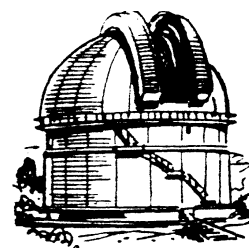

Journal

of the



Nottingham Astronomical Society

October 2010

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Thursday, 7th October

at the

British Geological Survey
Nicker Hill, Keyworth

8 pm (doors open at 7.30pm)

Tonight we welcome

Susan Cartwright

of the Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of Sheffield
who will be speaking on

**"Cosmology and the LHC
(what the LHC might or might not tell
us about the universe)"**

JUPITER, OUR PROTECTOR

For some time, Jupiter has been thought of as fulfilling a protecting role toward Earth, as with its massive gravity the giant planet tends to attract potentially dangerous chunks of space debris, such as asteroids and comets, making them less likely to collide with our home. But until 1994, when the remnants of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 crashed into Jupiter, no one had observed a body falling into the gas giant. At the time, this was considered to be a once-in-a-lifetime event, since collisions with Jupiter, though frequent on a cosmic timescale, might typically occur centuries apart.

Now, that view has changed, thanks to two further collisions recorded by amateur astronomers within a matter of weeks of each other, making a possible total of three impacts in just thirteen months. The latest, on August 20th, was recorded by the Japanese amateur, Masayuki Tachikawa, of Kumamoto, using a webcam attached to a 150 mm aperture apochromatic refractor. The video shows a brief flash of light as the object burned up in Jupiter's atmosphere over the northern edge of the North Equatorial Belt.

It seems that Jupiter's role of a kind of "vacuum cleaner" for the Solar System has been confirmed.

Sky Notes

October 2010

Compiled by Roy Gretton



British Summer time ends as late as possible this year, with the last day of October falling on a Sunday. On October 31st, clocks should be turned back one hour at 2 a.m.

PHASES OF THE MOON

Last Quarter occurs on October 1st and again on the 30th

New Moon occurs on the 7th

First Quarter occurs on the 14th

Full Moon occurs on the 23rd

THE PLANETS

Mercury ends its morning apparition early this month, and passes through superior conjunction on October 17th. It is essentially unobservable this month.

Venus is unobservable this month. It passes through inferior conjunction on October 29th.

Mars spends the entire month in the constellation of Libra, and has now to be considered unobservable for several coming months.

Jupiter is a glorious spectacle in the southern sky for most of the night. It lies close to the border of Aquarius and Pisces, and, shining at magnitude -2.9 , is the brightest “star” in the sky. Telescopic observation can be a very rewarding experience, with many features of the disk to be watched, as well as the endless movements of the four brightest satellites.

Saturn is unobservable this month, being in conjunction with the Sun on October 1st.

Uranus is a magnitude 5.7 object in the constellation of Pisces, visible in the southern sky throughout the night with the aid of binoculars or a small telescope.

Neptune is magnitude 7.8 object close to the border of Aquarius and Capricornus.

METEORS

The best meteor shower of October, the Piscids, is unfavourable for observation this month, as their maximum activity occurs on October 22nd, a matter of hours before the Full Moon.

COMET 103P/Hartley is approaching perihelion, which occurs on October 28th, when it could just reach naked-eye visibility. The comet begins this month under Cassiopeia, and heads through Perseus and Auriga before ending the month in Gemini. Latest observations suggest that the comet will be several magnitudes fainter than had originally been hoped.

DIARY DATES 2010

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 for the latest information about the Society's meetings and observing sessions.

Thursday 7th October 2010
British Geological Survey, Keyworth
8.00pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Talk: "**Cosmology and the LHC**
(what the LHC might or might not tell us about the universe)"

Susan Cartwright
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of Sheffield

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

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

Federation of Astronomical Societies Annual Convention and AGM

Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, Cambridge

Saturday 9th October 2010

Speakers

Prof. Phillipa Browning

(University of Manchester)

'Our Active Sun'

Prof. Tim Naylor

(University of Exeter)

'Star And Planet Formation'

Jerry Stone FBIS FRAS

'Visiting The Lord Of The Rings'

Dr. Peter Wheatley

(University of Warwick)

'Hunting For Extra-Solar Planets Using Small Telescopes'

Plus Full Trade Stands, Society Exhibitions and FAS Raffle

Tickets £5.00 On The Door

Doors Open: 9am Lectures Commence: 10am

www.fedastro.org.uk

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Further Note from Richard Sargent, Federation of Astronomical Societies President, of forthcoming FAS Conention and AGM

I would like to bring to your attention to the forthcoming Federation of Astronomical Societies Convention & AGM which will take place on Saturday, 9th October 2010 at the Institute of Astronomy , Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0HA. Tickets are £5.00 on the door.

We have an excellent programme of speakers and plenty of trade stands selling astronomical equipment, books etc. The attached poster gives more details. Could you please bring this event to the attention of your fellow amateur astronomers at your local astronomical society. Perhaps take a copy of the poster along to the next society meeting, or e-mail it to members if your society has an internal members only page on its website? It will be a great astronomy day out!

Many thanks,

Richard Sargent

FAS President

Advance notification of next year's Astronomy Show:

The Astronomy Show will be held on 23rd April 2011.

The Show is being held in the Conference and Exhibition facilities at Hastingwood Industrial and Business Park, Birmingham
(<http://www.theastronomyshow.eu/directions/>)

Programme

9:45am Doors open to the public.

10:00am Welcome address and official show opening by Sir Arnold Wolfendale FRS, the 14th Astronomer Royal.

10:30am Talk by Sir Arnold Wolfendale FRS

12.00pm Dr Stuart Clark – The Biggest Questions: The Universe

Break for lunch until 2.00pm

2.00pm Presentation on the Kielder Project and Observatory by Gary Fildes, there will be a model of the observatory and a display on its history and future development.

3.00pm Talk by astrophotographer Nik Szymanek

4.30pm Dave Newton – The 3D Universe

5.45pm Jack Martin - Stellar Spectra

From 10:00am through to 8:00pm the main exhibition hall will be open with an array of trade stands as well as some displays by various other organisations.

For further information see:

<http://www.theastronomyshow.eu/>

Notification of *The Astronomer* meeting

to be held on October 23 being held in Wakefield

Details are to be found at

<http://www.theastronomer.org/>

with further details and speakers at:

http://www.theastronomer.org/agm2010/TAAGM_WWW_2010.pdf

Our meetings are open to non-subscribers so anyone from Hull and East Riding AS would be very welcome.

Kind regards,
Guy M Hurst (Editor)

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 (Keyworth)

Mike Sumbler

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

NAS Journal e-mailing list

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

info@nottinghamastro.org.uk

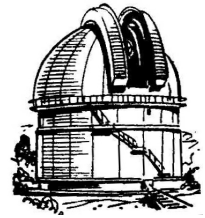
You don’t have to be a Society member to take advantage of this service.

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:

Subscription rate:	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

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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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Dorothy Sowerby

Kevin Greally

David Anderson

Julie Morledge

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 1st October. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 1st April. Please make cheques payable to: Nottingham Astronomical Society.

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 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.

The Nottingham Astronomical Society

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