

Journal

of the

Nottingham Astronomical Society

September 1999

Welcome to the September 1999 meeting of the Nottingham Astronomical Society and the start of the autumn session.

This evenings speaker is **Dr Clive Ruggles**, from the Department of Archeology at Leicester University, on the subject of: "**Stonehenge and Beyond - Astronomy in Prehistoric Britain and Ireland**".

It is with great regret that the death of our Vice-President, and previous President, Robin Haynes must be reported.

Robin died suddenly on the 12th August, on the day following the total solar eclipse, whilst still in France on a trip to see the eclipse.

There is an obituary on page two.



Robin Haynes
1944 to 1999

In this months Journal I have included a selection of astronomical images and drawings from NAS members. I am also intending to feature more images next month, with particular reference to the August 11th solar eclipse, so please send me any images that you wish to include. I can use slides, negatives, prints and can also receive them as e-mail attachments in most formats, (send to david@coypu.freemove.co.uk).

Other contributions to the Journal are also needed so please put pen to paper.

El Presidente

Obituary

Robin Haynes

It is with sadness that I have to report that Robin Haynes died suddenly on the morning of 12 August 1999. Robin had taken a break, along with Robin Gray and Karl Wood, to travel to France (just North of Reims) to witness the total solar eclipse of 11 August 1999. He died the following morning.

Robin joined the Nottingham Astronomical Society in 1983, and was its President for four years. He was currently the Vice President, and took the Minutes of the Committee Meetings. You could always tell they were written by Robin by the little humorous asides that would accompany the usual dryness of the minutes themselves.

As well as being interested in Astronomy, he was also a keen chess player and had a fascination for Mathematics. I remember one occasion where there was an 'Horizon' programme on Fermat's Last Theorem - Robin wrote off for the transcript of the programme! We had quite a conversation about the programme after one of our meetings. Not only that, he had a huge knowledge of other matters scientific, including odd facts of scientists of years' past, and the derivation of words in the English language.

Robin would regularly attend the social activities organised by the Society, particularly any Astronomical conventions. Over the past 14 years he attended the FAS conventions at Coventry and Cambridge, recently The AstroFest at Leeds, to name but a few. He particularly enjoyed any talk given by Dr Allan Chapman. Although he had no means of transport himself he would always ensure that he was on time at any pick-up point, even if it meant walking miles. His articles in NAS Journal had a style of their own, with a phenomenal memory for detail, and his own touches of humour.

He was good company to be with - travelling many hundreds of miles as a passenger in my car over the years to the various functions, the conversation was never dull with Robin around. Robin would always find time to visit the library to find a suitable road map of the town or city we were travelling to. On one occasion I got hopelessly lost in the Leeds one-way system, but Robin produced the road map and we finally found our destination.

At Christmas time the NAS sends a card to our friends in Karlsruhe, Robin could be relied on to find a suitable card that reflected Nottingham and its heritage.

His presence will be missed at both the meetings of the Society, and at any social activities organised by the Society. He was with the company he liked, and just hours before his death was watching one of Nature's great spectacles - a total solar eclipse.

Brian Griffin
Treasurer - Nottingham Astronomical Society