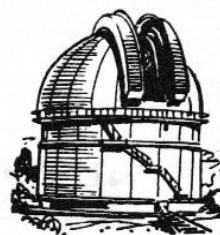


# NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1946 for all interested in astronomy



## NEWSLETTER 1

### OBSERVATORY REPORT

Work on the Mount Pleasant Observatory has progressed well during 1994. The interior has been cleaned and treated against rust, and is now a nice pale green matt colour. The initial work to put in the slit is now almost complete, with some support bars fitted. Work on the slit itself should begin in early 1995.

There is some concern about the state of the annexe roof, which is letting in water. It maybe necessary to replace this next year.

The site has suffered two more attacks from vandals over the last twelve months, on both occasions existing security proved adequate, (although after both attacks further measures were put in to effect).

The upkeep of the site in general has continued with the petrol mower proving to be a great help in grass-cutting, and keeping the site tidy. We are on the look-out for a cheap second hand petrol strimmer. The trees have been cut back again, but still provide some cover from the wind.

Parking on the grass is not advisable at the moment as the recent heavy rains have made the ground very soft.

### EXISTING INSTRUMENTS

The 25x100 binoculars continue to prove their worth being in regular use. The 77mm refractor is a useful addition to the Society instruments and requires little maintenance. The 150mm (6inch) Dobsonian needs slight attention but still performs well. The 215mm reflector has recently been serviced and is performing very well. A new cover for the 215mm mount was obtained this year, but as always we are on the look-out for another as a spare.

## JANUARY 1995

### JACK NEWTON'S 1995 TOUR

Astronomy and astrophotography have been Jack Newtons hobby since his mid-teens. He has won international renown and awards for his work. His photographs and articles have appeared in *Sky & Telescope*, *Astronomy Magazine*, and *CCD Magazine*. He has represented the interest of amateurs on the Advisory Editorial Board of *Sky & Telescope*, and at various levels with in the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He has travelled to the former Soviet Union, Mexico, Peru, and in 1995 he plans to visit England.

He will arrive in London on May 26th and be the guest of the B.A.A. From there he and his wife, Alice, plan to travel around England visiting Bath, Liverpool, Lincoln, Bourne, Nottingham, and Cambridge.

Jack and Alice will arrive in Nottingham on Saturday June 10th and stay with a member of the Society until Monday June 12th. We plan to show them our work at the observatory.

A special talk is planned in conjunction with Mansfield & Sutton Astronomical Society at their Sherwood Observatory on the evening of Sunday June 11th. Jack's talk consists of the progress of amateur astrophotography from simple tripod mounts, through driven camera, cold camera work, and into state of the art colour CCD imaging. It is also hoped to be able to show "Hidden Image Processing Software" in use on a computer. This is not only a chance for Jack to see a fine observatory, but an opportunity for both societies to share their hobby together.

## NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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### NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY APPEAL

At the 48th October A.G.M. The Treasurer Brian Griffin launched an appeal, the first challenge was to raise £700 towards the cost of re-figuring the main 24inch mirror to a higher optical finish, the second part would be to raise a further £800. (£1,500 final target) toward the cost of the other optical components for the Newtonian and Cassegrain/Nasmyth.

The initial deposit was raised by mid October and Crabb Optics were given the go a head to start work. By early December we had raised £686.25 toward the cost of re-figuring the main mirror, just £14 short of the first target.

In view of this the Committee meeting of 1994 December 8th moved to accept Crabb Optics quote, (£475). for the Cassegrain/Nasmyth optics and put tenders out for the Newtonian secondary. By keeping most of the work with Brian Crabb we are confident that the optical components will give members the best results, and avoid any problems such as encountered by the famous Hubble Space Telescope. However, we now have to try and raise that money in a very short time, your help, no matter how small is needed. Please make all cheques payable to the **NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY** and send them to;

Treasurer:-Mr. B. Griffin

24 Goldham Road, Strelley, **NOTTINGHAM, NG8 6NG**

### INFORMAL MEETINGS

The loss of Gedling House as a venue for informal meetings over two years ago was a blow to the Society. However, the switch to holding meetings at members homes appears to be working well. The next two meetings, January 19th and February 16th will be held at the home of Dove Fletcher, 26 the Paddocks, Nuthall, (7.30 to 9.30pm). A new venue will be announced in the February Journal, or call the Secretary, Carl Brennan on 0115 938 4521.

### SOCIETY DINNER

This Years New Year Dinner will be held on Saturday 14th January at the Carvery in the Royal Hotel. We meet at 8.00pm for sitting at 8.30pm. A £2.00 deposit is required with the meal costing around £12.00. For more information you should contact The President Tony Elliott at 166 Minver Crescent, Aspley, **NOTTINGHAM, NG8 5PJ**.

### SOCIETY OUTINGS

May 6th FAS AGM and Convention at Tresham College Campus, Kettering. We try to get at least six members along to this meeting as this gets the Society free FAS membership.

July 29th **EYES ON THE UNIVERSE**  
The third Convention in this series to be run by **BOSTON ASTRONOMERS**. To be held at the Blackfriars Arts Centre, Spain Lane, Boston, Lincs. We may run a mini-bus to this event if there is enough support, contact the NAS Secretary Carl Brennan on 0115 938 4521.

### NORWICH TRIP - MID SUMMER

We would like to run an outing to visit Norwich Astronomical Society, and see their observatory now it has been re-located. It would be nice to organise a mini-bus for this trip, enquiries to Tony Elliott at 166 Minver Crescent, Aspley, **NOTTINGHAM, NG8 5PJ**.

September 30th FAS 1995 Autumn Convention, Cambridge. Details later in the year.

# NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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## PROGRAMME

1994/95

- 6th October **48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- 3rd November **ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY WITH A SCHMIDT CAMERA**  
Dr. Cedrick Martys MD. FRAS. Dr. Martys's book will be on sale (price £12.50) at this meeting.
- 1st December **SOLITON STARS**  
Dr. George Jaroskiewicz BSc PhD. University of Nottingham. Dept of Mathematics.
- 5th January **VIDEO EVENING**  
This meeting will start at 7.45 prompt. as the video is a full length feature!
- 2nd February **IMPACT, BY JOVE!-**  
**(Shoemaker-Levy 9 meets Jupiter)**  
Mr. Paul Money FRAS FBIS Boston Astronomers.
- 2nd March **TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED**  
Mr. Brian Griffin, NAS Treasurer and Director of Observing.
- 6th April **CELESTIAL CURVE BALLS! (Meteorites)**  
Mr. Jeffery Perkins, Nottingham Astronomical Society.
- 4th May **U.S. ASTRONOMY -**  
**INDEPENDENCE TO PRESENT (PART ONE)**  
Mr. David Swaby, Lincoln Astronomical Society.
- 1st June **THE COLOUR OF STARS - What do they tell us?**  
Dr Patrick Sherry, a local Astronomy Lecturer for the W.E.A., and friend of the Society.
- 6th July **TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED**  
Mr. Dove Fletcher, NAS Journal Editor.
- 3rd August **Evening walk/tour**  
Details nearer the event horizon
- 7th September **ADVANCED ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY**  
Mr. Bill Henshaw, Member of Nottingham, and Chesterfield Astronomical Society's.
- 5th October **49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

All the above meetings (except 3rd August) will be held in  
Room 003 of the City Technology College, Nottingham Road.

Room open 7.30pm to 10.00pm

## NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the British Astronomical Association  
Members of the Federation of Astronomical Societies

President:- Mr. A. Elliott  
Vice President:- Mr. R. Haynes  
Mr. A. Heath (former Dir. BAA Saturn Section)

Honorary Secretary:- Mr. C. J. Brennan  
40 Swindon Close, The Vale, Giltbrook,  
NOTTINGHAM, NG16 2WD.

Telephone:- 0115 938 4521

Honorary Treasurer:- Mr. B. Griffin  
24 Goldham Road, Strelley, NOTTINGHAM,  
NG8 6NG

Telephone:- 0115 929 8364

Meetings:- Djanogly City Technology College, Sherwood  
Rise/Nottingham Road (B682). Nottingham.  
NG7 7AR

Doors Open:- 7.30pm

Meeting Starts:- 7.45pm

Meeting ends:- 10.00pm

These are a formal monthly meeting with speakers. They are held in Room 003 on the ground floor in the C.T.C.. A small charge of £1.50 Adults, £1.00 Juniors is made to non-members. Invited guests free.

Subscriptions:- £15.00 Full Adult  
£ 7.50 Junior (16 or under, FTS, Senior Citizens, Unemployed persons (UB40 holders)).  
Subscriptions become due at the AGM. A half price subscription rate is charged for persons joining after April 1st each year.

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## NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NAME:-  
ADDRESS:-

Please tick as required;

I would like more information about the Society.....[ ]  
I would like to make a donation to the Society.....[ ]  
I enclose the standard year membership fee of £15.00.....[ ]  
I enclose the reduced year membership fee of £ 7.50\*.....[ ]

\* The reduced membership fee is for younger members, 16 or under, full time students, Senior Citizens, and unemployed persons.

Please make all cheques/postal orders payable to;  
NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY