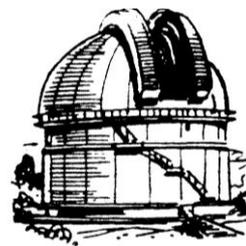


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# Journal

of the



## Nottingham Astronomical Society

November 2014

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### Inside this issue

- Sky Notes for November
- NAS e-Services
- A Member's Project
- Diary Dates
- Advertisement
- Society Information
- Membership application form

Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

British Geological Survey

Nicker Hill, Keyworth

8 pm (doors open at 7.30pm)

Tonight we hold our

### Annual General Meeting 2014

which all members are encouraged to attend

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### FIRST LANDING ON A COMET TO BE ATTEMPTED THIS MONTH

**Philae**, the lander being carried by the **Rosetta** spacecraft, is due to make a landing on **Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko** on November 16<sup>th</sup>. If the manoeuvre is successful, it will be the first time that a probe from Earth has touched down on a comet.

**Philae** is named after an obelisk brought to England from the River Nile, and now located in the grounds of Kingston Lacy (a property owned by the National Trust) in Dorset.

The Editor visited this site last month (see pictures below). The purpose of the scaffolding currently around the obelisk is to allow researchers from Oxford University to use the latest imaging techniques to read Greek inscriptions that have eroded over the centuries.



# Sky Notes

## November 2014

Compiled by Roy Gretton



### PHASES OF THE MOON

Full Moon	10:23 pm on November 6 <sup>th</sup>
Last Quarter	3:16 pm on the 14 <sup>th</sup>
New Moon	12:32 pm on the 22 <sup>nd</sup>
First Quarter	10:06 am on the 29 <sup>th</sup>

This month the Moon is closest to the Earth on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and furthest on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### THE PLANETS

**Mercury** begins the month in arguably the best position for morning observation in the whole of 2014. Shining at magnitude  $-0.5$ , it will be about 20 degrees from the Sun and 15 degrees above the southeastern horizon at sunrise on November 1<sup>st</sup>, the date of greatest western elongation. The planet remains visible (and even brighter) in the morning sky during the first half of the month, before heading toward superior conjunction on December 8<sup>th</sup>.



Looking southeast  
at 6 am  
on November 1<sup>st</sup>,  
showing the  
positions of  
Mercury and Jupiter

**Venus** is an evening object, but practically unobservable this month.

**Mars** moves closer to the Sun as this month progresses, and due to its southerly declination (close to  $-25$  degrees on November 1<sup>st</sup>) is effectively unobservable for UK observers.

**Jupiter**, close to the border between Cancer and Leo, is a brilliant object in the morning sky. By the end of November it will be rising before 10 pm, and shining at magnitude  $-2.1$ .

**Saturn** is unobservable this month, as it passes through conjunction with the Sun on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Uranus** continues to be well placed for observation, being due south in the late evening. The planet is in the constellation of Pisces, shining at magnitude  $+5.8$  and having an angular diameter of 3.6 arcseconds.

**Neptune** is an evening object in the constellation of Aquarius. Its magnitude is +7.9, and its diameter a 2.3 arcseconds.

## **METEORS**

Conditions this year are unfavourable for observing the **Taurids**, as their maximum activity occurs close to Full Moon. The **Leonids**, on the other hand, reach their maximum in the third week of the month (on the night of November 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>), as the Moon is waning in the morning sky.

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## **The Nottingham Astronomical Society: E - SERVICES**

Whether or not you are a NAS member, you can keep up to date with details of the Society's meetings and other events by visiting the NAS website: [www.nottinghamastro.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamastro.org.uk)

### **NAS on Facebook**

You are welcome to connect with other members and friends of the NAS on Facebook by going to: <http://www.facebook.com/nas.org.uk>

### **NAS Journal e-mailing list**

To register for your monthly e-mailed copy of the NAS Journal, just e-mail [secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

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

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## **A Homemade Observatory Project**

Along with this mailing you should have received a copy of NAS member Stephen Charnock's excellent and informative account of his observatory project. Many thanks, Stephen, for sharing this with our readers.

## DIARY DATES 2014-2015

### **Monthly Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society**

Our programme for this year is shown below. Don't forget to check our website:

[www.nottinghamastro.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamastro.org.uk)

for the latest information about the Society's meetings and for further information about the talks and speakers.

Our meetings are held on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month, at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Notts. NG12 5GG

Doors open at 7:30pm for 8pm start.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

**2014 Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Into the Cosmic Ocean  
*The Dream of Travel to the Stars***

**Andrew Lound**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**“It's Time for Astronomy!”**

**Dr Roy Gretton  
*Vice President, NAS***

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**Open Evening**

**All members and friends welcome**

# Advertisement

## Meade DS10" Reflector

Imported from the US in 1983.

Manufacturer's specification:

*10" Reflector. Null-figured, diffraction limited Pyrex parabolic primary mirror and matching (2.60" M.A.) 1/10-wave flat elliptical secondary; 67 toothed rack-and-pinion focuser at convenient observing position; Kellner 25mm (46x) eyepiece; Sonotube 12" I.D x 46" long, sealed and attractively Zolaton coated; all metal, precision-machined Equatorial Mount, with ultra-smooth nylon bearings and 1" solid steel shafts; rock-solid, low profile pier and tripod legs, locks on both axes.*

Additional items:

Meade OR 9mm eyepiece

Weights for use on equatorial mount

Rings for use on an EQ5/6 mount

Meade Spotting Scope with 9mm eyepiece

Storage bag

New laser collimator

Original manual

The mirrors were re-silvered by Orion Optics in 2013

More information and photos - [tony@raban.plus.com](mailto:tony@raban.plus.com). (Nottingham)

# 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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email: [observatory@nottinghamastro.org](mailto:observatory@nottinghamastro.org)

**Observatory line: 07726 940700 (line open during observing sessions)**

## **ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Kevin Greally**

**David Anderson**

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## **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 2014**

Full	£25
Concessions	£12.50
Joint rate for partners living at the same address	£37.50

Subscriptions become due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 1<sup>st</sup> July. Please make cheques payable to: Nottingham Astronomical Society.

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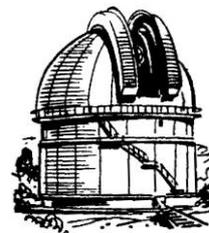
If you would like more information about the **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, or would like to become a member, please contact the Secretary [secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamastro.org.uk) or speak to any NAS committee member at one of the regular monthly meetings. A membership application form is inside this issue of the Journal.

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### **The Nottingham Astronomical Society**

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# NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



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## ***Membership application and Gift Aid declaration***

**Title:**

**Full name:**

**Full home address:**

**Postcode:**

**Telephone:**

**e-mail address:**

<b>Subscription rate:</b>	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:**