

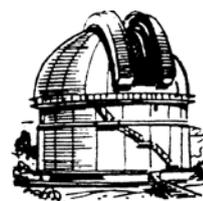
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# Journal

of the

Nottingham Astronomical Society  
November 2016

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## In this issue

- Sky Notes for November
- Diary Dates 2016
- NAS Helpdesk
- NAS Library
- Social and Practical Astronomy – latest meeting
- E-Services
- Advertisement
- Society Information
- Membership application form

Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

British Geological Survey  
Nicker Hill, Keyworth

8 pm (doors open at 7.30pm)

Tonight we hold our

## Annual General Meeting 2016

which all members are encouraged to attend

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## 15 Years Ago – The Committee of 2001-02

As we prepare to elect a new committee at the forthcoming AGM,  
it's interesting to look back at the one elected in 2001



**From left to right:** Peter Davison (*Vice President*), Robin Gray (*Curator of Instruments*), Karl Wood (*Minutes Secretary*), Brian Griffin (*Treasurer & Director of Observing*), Paul Stocks (*Journal Editor*), Carl Brennan (*Secretary*), David Lukehurst (*President*), Roy Gretton (*Vice President*), Mike Provost (*Ordinary Member*), Christine Wells (*Campaign for Dark Skies Rep*)

# Sky Notes

## November 2016

Compiled by Roy Gretton



*All times given below are in Universal Time (Greenwich Mean Time)*

### PHASES OF THE MOON

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Date and time</i>
First Quarter	7:51pm on November 7th
Full Moon	1:52pm on the 14 <sup>th</sup>
Last Quarter	8:33am on the 21 <sup>st</sup>
New Moon	12:18pm on the 29 <sup>th</sup>

This month the Moon is closest to the Earth on the 14<sup>th</sup> and furthest on the 29<sup>th</sup>. In fact, the Moon will make its closest approach to Earth in the whole of 2016 about two hours before the time of Full Moon, so the Moon should appear particularly **large** as it rises on the evening of November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### THE PLANETS

**Mercury** is an evening object throughout November. It will be completely unobservable as the month begins, and even at the end of November will be extremely difficult to find, as it will lie nearly 26 degrees south of the celestial equator.

**Venus**, also an evening object, and also poorly placed for UK observers, spends the whole of November more than 24 degrees south of the equator. However, at magnitude  $-4.1$  it is much brighter than Mercury, and by the end of the month will be 43 degrees from the Sun, so you should be able to spot it low in the southwest after sunset.

**Mars**, yet another evening object well south of the equator, spends most of November in the constellation of Capricornus. The planet's brightness and angular size are continuously diminishing as it moves further from Earth but, curiously, at the end of the month it will be setting later in the evening than it did at the beginning.

**Jupiter**, having recently moved south of the equator, and now in the constellation of Virgo, has begun to put in an appearance in the morning sky. In mid-November it will be rising at about 4 am, and will be visible as a magnitude  $-1.7$  "star" in the southeast in the pre-dawn period.

**Saturn** must now be regarded as unobservable from the British Isles, as it approaches conjunction with the Sun in early December.

**Uranus**, shining at magnitude 5.7 in the constellation of Pisces, is well placed for observation this month, being situated due south at about 10 pm in early November.

**Neptune** at magnitude 7.8 is a much fainter object than Uranus, and lower in the sky when it transits the meridian at about 7 pm in mid-November.

## METEORS

The **Taurids** have two maxima, the first on November 5<sup>th</sup> and the second on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Conditions are favourable for the earlier maximum this year, but not for the second, which occurs only a day or two before Full Moon.

Conditions are also unfavourable for the **Leonids**, which reach maximum activity on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

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## DIARY DATES 2016

### Monthly Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

Our programme for this year is shown below\*. 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

(except **August**, when we meet at our observatory site, between Cotgrave and Cropwell Bishop)  
Doors open at 7:30pm for 8pm start.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Annual General Meeting 2016	
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Galactic Monsters: Seyfert Galaxies, Radio Galaxies and Quasars	Dr Marek Kukula Greenwich Observatory

\* But see also details of our Social and Practical Astronomy meetings (below)

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### NAS Helpdesk

Have you got some new kit you want help with or just to bring along and show us? Or do you have some plans for the new observing season and want to sound them out, if so come and see us on the helpdesk. As always, we'll have some astronomy magazines looking for a good home, and if you have any you no longer want bring them along as someone else will likely take them away to read.



**James Dawson, Bob Richardson and Richard Severn**

[helpdesk@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

### NAS Library

As it's the AGM meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, I will bring along a smaller than usual selection of books – all still good though!

If any members want me to bring along a particular book then please let me know via the email below.

Hope to see some of you there.

The full list of books in our lending collection can be found here: [NAS Library Collection](#).



Lorraine [NASlibrarian@hotmail.com](mailto:NASlibrarian@hotmail.com)

## Social and Practical Astronomy meeting, 20th October 2016

Our trial of having a second monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month continues, and the meeting held on Thursday 20th October 2016 was a great success. We had over 35 visitors to the Plumtree venue which made parking a bit challenging; we appreciate parking is tricky, but please do be considerate to local residents, even if this means you have to walk another 50 yards.

David Weightman gave an excellent talk on the night-time widefield images he has taken with his DSLR, entitled Light After Dark. David discussed the settings and processes he uses to capture his images, and some of the pitfalls. A lively discussion followed this with plenty of questions and discussion from the floor.



Following this I gave a brief description on the principles of polar alignment. This can seem to be a daunting task but hopefully the talk and subsequent discussion clarified the topic a little. As we had various equatorial mounts in the hall, the group then broke up into smaller units and looked at the practicalities of polar aligning an equatorial mount.

A few people went outside and studied the night sky with binoculars and a small reflector, and looked at the eastern sky and saw the Pleiades and some open clusters in Perseus. Lorraine had some books from the library on show and I saw plenty of people looking at these and think a fair few were lent out.

***The next Social and Practical Astronomy meeting is not on the third Thursday of November, it is on Monday 14th November at the Plumtree venue.***

Doors will open at 19:30. Several people who were present at the October meeting were given a slip of paper with a deep sky object on from the Messier Catalogue - I think I handed out about 30 of these. At the November meeting everyone who was given a Messier object will give a very short talk on that object (up to 60 seconds) and talk about any aspect of that object which they find interesting, from its origins in the universe, to how it was discovered, to the astrophysics which makes it look the way it does, to where it appears in the sky and how best to observe it or how to image it - whatever you want, as long as it is about 60 second long. I will project an image of the relevant Messier object to accompany the talk, but no other slides will be allowed, but you are welcome to use notes or other props if you want. If you didn't get a Messier object, but want one to talk about at the November meeting, let me know and I'll email you one.

**James Dawson**

[helpdesk@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

## 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 on Twitter

The Society has a Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/NottinghamAstro>

### 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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### NOTE to NAS Members and Journal Subscribers

If you happen to change your email address, please remember to inform the Society by emailing us at [treasurer@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

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### Advertisement

#### FOR SALE

Set of four 1¼-inch coloured filters (red, yellow, green, blue)	£20
Mars filter 1¼-inch	£10
Moon filter 1¼-inch (25% transmission)	£10
Filter case (holds up to four 1¼-inch filters)	£2
Celestron lens pen	£2
Micro-fibre cleaning cloth	£2

**Sam Boote** [s.boote@bcs.org](mailto:s.boote@bcs.org) or at Society meetings

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# 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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## **PRESIDENT:**

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## **VICE PRESIDENT:**

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e-mail: [vicepresident@nottinghamastro.org.uk](mailto:vicepresident@nottinghamastro.org.uk)

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## **DIRECTOR OF OBSERVING:**

**(vacant post; Acting Director: John Hurst)**

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

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

## **ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Sam Boote**

**Barrie Chacksfield**

**James Dawson**

**Lynda Foot**

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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 welcome to attend.

## **Annual subscriptions 2016**

Full	£30
Joint rate for partners living at the same address	£45
Under-18s and full-time students	£5

Subscriptions become due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 30<sup>th</sup> June (minimum subscription £5).

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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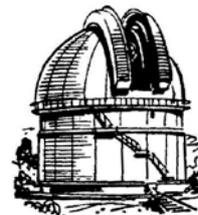
### **The Nottingham Astronomical Society**

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# NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

Registered Charity No. 1066645  
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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	£30.00	(year)	£15.00	(half year)
	Partnership	£45.00	(year)	£22.50	(half year)
	Under-18 and full-time students	£5			

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:**