

CARDIFF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

HANDBOOK 1998-99

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INTRODUCTION

Cardiff Astronomical Society was founded in July 1975, and was based originally at the old Penylan Observatory. Unfortunately, due to years of neglect by the City Council, exacerbated by vandalism, the observatory had to be closed down early in 1979 and the Society moved its headquarters to University College. Meetings are held fortnightly on alternate Thursdays between September and July in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Wales College of Cardiff. They commence at 7.30pm prompt and finish shortly after 9.00pm. The programme comprises lectures, short talks, quizzes etc., and we try to cater for all interests at whatever level, whether beginner or more advanced. Hopefully, we've included something for everyone.

The map opposite shows the location of the venue. It is easy to get to, and close to a major bus route. ample car parking is available nearby. If in doubt, contact any Committee member (phone numbers on p4). Please make every effort to attend - we like our lectures to have as large an audience as possible.

The Society owns a number of portable telescopes (see p10) which are available for members to borrow. They can be borrowed at meetings, or by arrangement with the Director of Observations (address overleaf). Details will be announced at meetings or via the Newsletter.

A comprehensive library is available for use by members. The Society publishes a regular Newsletter that gives information on forthcoming activities, current phenomena in the sky etc. Any member is invited to contribute. In conjunction with the Federation of Astronomical Societies we publish an Astrocalendar that gives details of planetary phenomena, eclipses, meteor showers etc. for the forthcoming year.

Subscriptions: Adults £13.50 per annum, Juniors £2.50 per annum. Family membership for up to two adults plus up to two juniors £18.50 per annum. These are due on September 1st 1998 for 1998-99 session. Prompt payment appreciated!

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Cardiff Astronomical Society Program 1998 - 1999

1998

3rd September	Meteor showers	Dr. David Hughes - Sheffield University
10th September*	Astronomical societies in Victorian Britain	Dr. Alan Chapman - Oxford University
17th September	Space 1998	Andy Salmon- Birmingham Astronomical Society
1st October	Mars - the next generation	Paul Money - Horncastle Lincs.
15th October	Conventional astro photography V digital imaging	Martin Chick - Cardiff Astronomical Society
29th October	Observing the deep sky	Alan Dowdell - FAS President Hants
12th November **	The Hubble constant & the age of the universe	Prof. Mike Edmunds & Dr. John Davies - Cardiff University
26th November	Mysteries of the gamma ray bursts, signals from the edge of the universe	Dr. R. Hillier - Bristol University
10th December	Christmas quiz	Bob Pulverness - Cardiff Astronomical Society

1999

7th January	The Kuiper belt	Dr. R. M. Owens - Cardiff Astronomical Society
21st January	Transient phenomena	Neil Bone - Astronomy Now
4th February	Cemeteries of the universe (Should you shake hands with an alien)	Dr. D. Dunbar - Swansea University
18th February	Diving into the far infrared with SCUBA	Dr. P Alton - Cardiff University
4th March	The dark side of the universe	Dr. S. Eales - Cardiff University

* Extra Meeting

** The Debate

18th March	Observing the Sun with a small telescope	Lee MacDonald - Newbury Berkshire
1st April	Seeing is believing	Dr. Zbigsobiesierski - Cardiff University
15th April	Annual general meeting	
29th April	Extra solar planets and the origin of life	Dr. S. Clark - Welwyn Garden City Herts.
13th May	The moons of Jupiter	Eddie Carpenter - Bristol - Astronomical Society
27th May	Radio Jets	Dr.Katherine Blundell
10th June	Astro navigation	David Simpson - Barry Vale of Glamorgan
24th June	The Hydrogen survey	Prof. Mike Disney - Cardiff University
8th July	Whatever happened to the Astronauts	Ann Bonell - Leicester Astronomical Society

CONSTITUTION

1. **NAME**
The Society shall be named the Cardiff Astronomical Society.
2. **AIMS**
The Society shall be an organisation to stimulate public interest in the science of astronomy; to further the knowledge of its members and to promote and conduct research and observations.
3. **MEMBERSHIP**
Membership shall be open to all persons interested in astronomy.
4. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**
The amount of the annual subscription (and any reduction for juniors etc.) shall be proposed by the committee and shall be subject to the approval of the general membership at an Annual general Meeting, or at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose.

5. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Society shall commence on March 1st.

6. MEETINGS

a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the Spring of each year. Such meetings will be devoted primarily to the reports of the officers and the election of Officers for the next session.

b) Ordinary meetings shall take place once per fortnight, September to July, at the Society's headquarters, unless the committee should decide otherwise.

7. COMMITTEE

a) The committee shall be made up of the following members.

President

Vice President

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

Editor

Publicity Officer

Librarian

Director of Instruments/Observations

Junior Representative

Two Ordinary Members

b) All officers eligible shall be elected for the ensuing year at the Annual General Meeting

c) For each committee meeting, there shall be a quorum which shall be not less than one half of the committee membership.

d) The President and Vice President are ex-officio members of the committee.

e) The committee shall meet at least once per quarter

f) The committee shall be the administrative body of the Society and shall be responsible for its activities.

g) Committee members for election shall be proposed and seconded by a Society member.

h) No person shall stand for election without his or her prior consent.

8. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Society shall be University of Wales College of Cardiff.

RULES

1. The Society shall be called the Cardiff Astronomical Society.
2. The objects of the Society shall be to stimulate public interest in the science of astronomy, to further the knowledge of its members, and to promote and conduct research and observations.
3. The Society shall consist of ORDINARY, HONORARY and JUNIOR members. ORDINARY and HONORARY members shall have the right of attending and voting at all meetings of the Society, of proposing candidates for election to the committee, of serving if elected on the committee or in any office of the Society. All members have the right of receiving newsletters and notices issued during their membership.
4. ORDINARY and JUNIOR members shall pay an annual subscription. This shall become due on the first day of September every year. Members whose subscription are in arrears by over three months may be considered for removal from the Society at the discretion of the committee.
5. The management of the Society shall be vested in a committee as stated in 7A of the Constitution. The Chairman is elected to serve for one year with the option of standing for a second. The Chairman will stand down from the position following his/her term of office. The Secretary and Treasurer are not subject to re-election unless desired by the membership, the committee, or the incumbent. All other posts to come up for re-election annually, but the incumbent may be re-elected for as many years as the membership, the committee, or the incumbent desires.
6. In addition there shall be two ordinary members who may stand for one year only, after which they must stand down. One year must elapse before they are eligible for re-election. The above members to be elected at appropriate Annual General Meetings. The committee has the right to co-opt members for a special purpose. The committee shall fill any vacancies that may arise until the next Annual General Meeting. The President and Vice President are honorary posts, not subject to election. They may change from time to time at the discretion of the committee, or when the incumbent wishes to be relieved of the post.
7. Before each Annual General Meeting there shall be issued to each Ordinary and Honorary member of the Society a circular which shall contain the names of such members as may be nominated by the committee to serve on the committee for the following year. Additional nominations may be made by Ordinary members provided that the candidate is supported by not less than two Ordinary members, and that such nominations are received by the Secretary not less than fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Minutes shall be kept of committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings of the Society.

8. The committee shall, upon a requisition signed by not less than ten ORDINARY members of the Society, convene a Special General Meeting of the Society. A notice of the date and object of such a Special General Meeting shall be sent to each member of the Society not less than seven days before such a meeting, and no business shall be considered other than that for which it was convened.
9. The accounts of the Society shall be made up to the last day of February in each year, and audited by one individual excluding any serving member of the committee.
10. In the event of dissolution of the Society, such property or effects shall be disposed of by gift. Such gift shall be for the benefit of astronomy in general and not for the benefit of any individual. The disposal shall be determined by the vote of a Special General Meeting.
11. No rule shall be altered except by the majority vote of the Ordinary members present at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.
12. A copy of these rules shall be sent to each ORDINARY member upon election.
13. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman the committee shall be chaired by an officer elected by the committee.
14. Special meetings of the committee shall be called by not less than three committee members whose names shall appear on the summoning notice, together with the stated reason for the meeting. No minutes shall be read at a Special Meeting, and no business other than that stated on the agenda shall be transacted.

TELESCOPES

The Society possesses the following instruments which are available for loan to members. Please contact the Curator of Instruments for further information.

1. 20x70 Binoculars with tripod.
2. 3 inch refracting telescope †.
3. 3¾ inch refracting telescope ‡.
4. 6 inch open frame Newtonian reflecting telescope †.
5. 6 inch rich field Newtonian reflecting telescope ‡.
6. 8¾ inch 'Dark Star' Newtonian reflecting telescope *.
7. 4½ inch 'Siberia' Newtonian reflecting telescope †.
8. 6 inch 'Siberia' Newtonian reflecting telescope †.

† Equatorial mount. ‡ Alt/Az Mount. * Dobsonian Mount.

In addition the Society also possesses an eight-inch Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope which is for use at observing sessions, and is NOT available for loan to members.

LIBRARY

An updated list of books in the library will be published in a forthcoming newsletter, and it is proposed to purchase new titles to fill gaps in the coverage. In the meantime, if you would like to borrow any books, please contact the Librarian at meetings, who will be happy to make them available.

PROGRAMME

Please note that while we try not to alter the programme, occasionally changes have to be made, sometimes at short notice. We will do our best to inform you in advance, via the newsletter or at meetings.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Your membership details are kept on computer. They will only be used for the administration of Cardiff Astronomical Society and not disclosed to anyone who is not a member. However, you have the right to have the information deleted from the computer if you wish.

Our Observing Sites



