

CARDIFF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

HANDBOOK 1997-98

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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 1996 for 1997-98 session. Prompt payment appreciated!

COMMITTEE 1997-98**PRESIDENT**

Professor M J Disney FRAS
 Professor of Observational Astronomy
 Astrophysics Group,
 Department of Physics
 University of Wales College of Cardiff

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. M Edmunds
 Astrophysics Group
 Department of Physics
 University of Wales College of Cardiff

CHAIRMAN

Hugh Lang
 85 Heol Hir
 Llanishen, Cardiff
 Tel 01222 - 754211
 e-mail SPXRHL@cardiff.ac.uk

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Martin Chick
 2 Magnolia Way, Chandler's Reach
 Llantwit Fardre, Mid Glam
 Tel 01443 - 206594
 e-mail MEJChick@aol.com

SECRETARY

David Powell
 1 Tal-y-Bont Road
 Ely, Cardiff
 Tel 01222 - 551704

TREASURER

Peter Bennett
 6 Church Close, Llantwit Fardre
 Mid Glam Tel 01443 - 203247
 e-mail PBenn50541@aol.com

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Jackie Rudd
 19 Norris Close
 Penarth, Vale Of Glamorgan
 Tel 01222 - 704569

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Bob Pulverness
 20 New Road,
 Rumney, Cardiff
 Tel 01222 - 791830

EDITOR

Ian Davies
 13 Lon Ysgybor, Rhiwbina,
 Cardiff
 Tel 01222 - 613703
 e-mail Ian@ilddat.demon.co.uk

DIRECTOR of OBSERVATIONS/**CURATOR of INSTRUMENTS**

Norman Jenkins
 Garth View, Peterston Road
 Groesfaen, Mid Glam
 Tel 01446 - 760002

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Theresa Cooper
 32 Porth-y-Castell
 Barry, Vale of Glamorgan
 Tel 01446 - 700722
 e-mail Theresa@theresac.demon.co.uk

JUNIOR REP

Edward Gomez
 Gables, 135 Heath Park Ave
 Cardiff. Tel 01222 - 761794
 e-mail spx5elg@cardiff.ac.uk

LIBRARIAN

Joan Thomas
 166 Albany Road
 Roath, Cardiff
 Tel 01222 - 497594

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nick Hart
 3 St. Julian's Road, Newport
 Gwent. Tel 01633 251664

Ian Newsham
 2 Fonton Crescent, Ely
 Cardiff. Tel 01222 562133

Cardiff Astronomical Society - Programme 1997 - 1998.

1997

4th September	The History of Solar Astronomy	Dr Alan. Chapman Oxford University
18th September	Killer Asteroids	Dr. David. Hughes Sheffield University
2nd October	Ring Structures on the Moon	Mike Thomas, Usk Astronomical Society
16th October	Nebulae	Dr. Mike Inglis, Warwick University
30th October	The Hubble Constant & The Age of the Universe (A Debate)	Dr Mike Edmunds & Dr John Davies, Cardiff University
13th November	Binary Stars	Konrad Malin-Smith, London
27th November	Astrophotography Techniques	Jan Gray, Worcester Astronomical Society
11th December	Christmas Quiz.	Bob Pulverness, Cardiff Astronomical Society

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8th January	Redshift	Dr Stuart Clark, Welwyn Garden City
22nd January	Hale Bopp and Other Comets	Prof. N.C. Wickramasinghe, Cardiff University
5th February	Cosmic Horizons	Peter Smith, Bristol Astronomical Society
19th February	Its Earth but not as we know it Jim	Brian Stokes, Swansea Astronomical Society

5th March	Tips for the Beginner (First Night Out)	Dave Powell, Cardiff Astronomical Society
19th March	Astronomy and Art	John Meachem, Bristol Astronomical Society
2nd April	Origin and Structure of the Planets	Dr. Mike Legget, Milton Keynes
16th April	Annual General Meeting	
30th April	Telescope Tips	Ninian Boyle (Venturescope), Hampshire
14th May	The Search for Extraterrestrial Life	Dr. Barrie Jones, Open University Milton Keynes
28th May	Radio Astronomy	Hugh Lang, Cardiff Astronomical Society
11th June	Deep Sky Observing	Martin Griffiths, Bridgend Astronomical Society
25th June	Astronomy is Looking Up	Dave Thomas, Usk Astronomical Society
9th July	Three Short Talks	Members of Cardiff 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. three-inch refracting telescope.
2. six-inch Newtonian reflecting telescope.
3. six-inch rich field telescope

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.

Due to the value of instruments that are available for loan to members, we will require a deposit of £20 to be lodged before an instrument can be borrowed. This deposit will be returned upon return of the instrument in good condition. In the unlikely event of damage occurring to an instrument or accessory your maximum liability will be this £20.

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 Site at the Wenallt Car Park



