

CARDIFF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

HANDBOOK

1996-97

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**We Are
Here**



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 p2). 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 p8) 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 £12.50 per annum, Juniors £5.00 per annum. Family membership for up to two adults plus up to two juniors £17.50 per annum. These are due on September 1st 1996 for 1996-97 session. Prompt payment appreciated!

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Mr. M. Hole

PROGRAMME 1996-97

- 5th September Christiaan Huygens 1629-1695 Dr. A. Chapman Oxford University
- 19th September The Star of Bethlehem Dr. D. Hughes Sheffield University.
- 26th September An update on the origin of cosmic life Prof. N.C. Wickramasinghe Cardiff University.
- 3rd October Giant Comets and Civilisations Dr. S.V.M. Clube, Oxford University.
- 17th October The Planet Neptune Greg Smye-Rumsby, Kent.
- 31st October Astro-Photography and CCD M.Chick, Cardiff Astronomical Society
- 14th November Super Nova 1987A, nine years on Dr. R. Hillier, Bristol University.
- 28th November Comet Hale Bopp Dr. R. Owens, Cardiff Astronomical Society.
- 12th December Quiz N. Jenkins - Cardiff Astronomical Society.

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- 9th January Observing the Messier Objects J. Metcham - Bristol Astronomical Society.
- 23rd January Time Travel Dr. G. Shore, Swansea Univ.
- 6th February An illustrated guide to the equation of time B.Stokes, Swansea Astronomical Society.
- 20th February The origin of Chicxulub crater Prof. R.Kidd, University Collage Cardiff.
- 6th March The scale and age of the Universe Ian Nicholson, Astronomy Now.
- 20th March The Secular Moon P.Grego, Popular Astronomy.
- 3rd April Blobs, Blurs and Bad Buys K. McGrath SCS Astro.

PROGRAMME 1996/97

17th April	Annual General Meeting
1st May	The Anthropic Cosmological Principal M. Griffiths, Bridgend Astronomical Society.
15th May	Brains TrustMembers - Cardiff Astronomical Society.
29th May	Binocular Astronomy Dave Powell - Cardiff Astronomical Society.
12th June	Hubbles Deep Field Prof. M. Disney - Cardiff University.
26th June	The Story of Johannes Kepler Dr. K. Chandler - Swansea Astronomical Society .
10th July	Three Short TalksMembers - 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.
7. b) Ordinary meetings shall take place once per fortnight, September to July, at the Society's headquarters, unless the committee should decide otherwise.

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.

Before each Annual General Meeting there shall be issued to each Ordinary and
7. 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.

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.

