



HANDBOOK

2008-2009

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INTRODUCTION

Cardiff Astronomical Society was founded in July 1975 by Dr Bob Owens and Dave Powell at an out of London meeting of the British Astronomical Association held at Dyffryn Gardens. Dave Powell is still a member today as the Society continues to develop its activities supported by a very active and enthusiastic committee.

Membership has increased to over 250 and is drawn from a wide geographical area South and South West Wales, and into the West Country. Despite the travelling involved members attending meetings usually number over 60 and on several occasions during the year this number will reach over 100.

Meetings are held on alternate Thursday evenings September to July at Cardiff University, beginning at 7:30pm. Cardiff University has a world class astronomy and physics department and the Society receives tremendous support from everyone there led by our own President Professor Mike Disney.

The programme is varied comprising of lectures, short talks and debates. The aim is to cater for all interests at whatever level, beginner or advanced. The Society is able to attract the very best speakers from all over the UK. We hold regular observing evenings at one of two designated sites where members can look up at the night sky with the help of more experienced observers and some of the telescopes owned by the Society. For those who need help there is a naked eye sky tour to start the night off.

A comprehensive library is available for use by all members and telescopes can be borrowed by arrangement. We publish a regular newsletter that gives information on forthcoming events, activities, current phenomena etc. All members are invited to contribute.

The Society is frequently featured in locally made science education programmes on television and radio and we are actively involved with national events such as Science Week and at Techniquet Discovery Centre in Cardiff Bay.

The map on page 11 shows the location of the venue. It is easy to get to and close to bus and train routes. Ample car parking is available nearby. If in doubt contact any Committee member (phone numbers on page 3 & 4). Please make every effort to attend - it is encouraging for speakers to have a large audience and makes it easier for the Society to attract the best.

Subscription: Adults £15.00 Juniors £2.50 Family £20.00

Subscriptions are due on September 1st and prompt payment is appreciated.

A warm and friendly welcome promised for all!!!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Society shall be an organization to stimulate public interest in the science of astronomy; to further the knowledge of its members and to promote and conduct research and observations.

COMMITTEE 2008-2009

PRESIDENT

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COMMITTEE 2008-2009

PUBLIC EVENTS ORGANISER

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LIBRARIAN

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Cardiff Astronomical Society Programme 2008 - 2009

2008

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 th September | We're all going to Die-The Tun-guska Event. | Jerry Stone, Welwyn, Hertfordshire. |
| 18 th September | James Bradley (1693-1762) The Astronomers' Astronomer. | Dr. Allan Chapman, University of Oxford. |
| 2 nd October | Saturn, Lord of the Rings. | Andrew Lound, Birmingham, UK co-ordinator for The Planetary Society. |
| 16 th October | Mars Revisited (Was early Mars really warm and wet?). | Dr Alan Longstaff, London. |
| 30 th October | How Long Before We Discover Life in the Universe.
(joint meeting with the South Wales branch of the Institute of Biology.) | Prof Mike Edmunds, Cardiff University. |

Cardiff Astronomical Society Programme 2008 - 2009

13 th November	Astronomy Education.	Dr John Giffiths, Royal Observatory Greenwich, London.
27 th November	Twinkle, Twinkle Little (Neutron Star).	Dr Paul Roche, Cardiff University.
11 th December	Smoking Supernovae.	Dr Haley Gomez, Cardiff University.
2009		
8 th January	The History of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh.	Dr Derek Ward-Thomson, Cardiff University.
22 nd January	Using Small Telescopes and Binoculars for Astronomy. (plus a brief introduction to the 2009 six eclipses)	Sheridan Williams, Luton, Bedfordshire.
5 th February	Stellar Collisions and Near Misses in Star Clusters.	Dr Tom Maccarone, University of Southampton.
19 th February	Will I Need my Wellies? An Astronomical Question.	Brian Parsons, Cornwall
5 th March	Observing Planetary Nebulae.	Owen Brazell, Oxfordshire.
19 th March	Active Galactic Nuclei and Supermassive Black Holes.	Prof. Ian Robson, Chair UK IYA2009 activities.
2 nd April	Observing the Sun.	Lee Macdonald, Newbury.
16 th April	Annual General Meeting.	Cardiff Astronomical Society.
30 th April	Building a Small Observatory (Run-off roof type with binocular chair).	Bob Mizon, Dorset.
14 th May	The Southern European Observatory.	Prof. Mike Disney, Cardiff University.
28 th May	Imaging the Stupidly Dim.	Grant Privett, Herefordshire.
11 th June	Three Short Talks.	Cardiff Astronomical Society Members.
25 th June	The Hart Observatory.	Nick Hart, Cardiff Astronomical Society.
9 th July	Stellar Evolution part 2.	Roger Pickard, Herefordshire.



2009 has been officially proclaimed by the UN as International Astronomy Year. The resolution was submitted by Italy (Galileo Galilei's home country) and accepted and ratified by the General Assembly. Over 100 countries have signed up to this global event, as have many organizations such as NASA.

An important part of the year will be the legacy projects such as increasing public awareness of the beauty of the night sky, and its promotion and protection through the dark skies initiatives.

Cardiff Astronomical Society will be strongly supporting IYA2009 and events will take place throughout the year. You will find the Astronomy Festival on the programme (25th July) and the UK Chair for IYA activities, Professor Ian Robson, will be presenting a talk on 19th March. Keep looking at the IYA information on our web site for the latest news and the next event. Don't miss out!

One of the aims of 2009 is to give everyone in the UK the opportunity to look through a telescope. Quite a tall order and one that will rely heavily on astronomical societies such as ours and all of our members.

So what we need from you is suggestions of venues, groups (such as Rotary, Lions, WI, community associations etc.) that you may know of or you may belong to that would be interested in a talk or coming along to an observing evening. All ideas considered! Please see me (Theresa Cooper or any committee member). If you are reading this you must be interested in astronomy. This is your year, above all enjoy it!

IYA2009 Calendar (So Far)

Date	Time	Event	Venue
28th March	7:00pm	Stargazing from a Dark Site	Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre
25th July	10:00am to 4:30pm	Cardiff Astronomy Festival	National Museum Cardiff
24th October	7:00pm	Stargazing from a Dark Site	Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre

IYA2009 Web Pages

<http://www.astronomy2009.co.uk> <http://www.astronomy2009.org>

CONSTITUTION

1. **NAME**

The Society shall be named the Cardiff Astronomical Society.

2. **AIMS**

The Society shall be an organization 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

Membership Secretary

Publications Officer

CONSTITUTION continued

Publicity Officer
 Librarian
 Director of Observations
 Curator of Instruments
 University Liaison Officer
 Public Events Organizer
 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 Cardiff University.

RULES

1. The Society shall consist of ORDINARY, HONORARY, JUNIOR (*Under 18 years old*) and ASSOCIATE members. JUNIOR members under the age 14 years must be accompanied by an adult. ORDINARY, HONORARY and The JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE 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. JUNIOR members have rights as outlined above with respect to the JUNIOR Representative. ORDINARY, HONORARY, JUNIOR members have the right of receiving newsletters and notices issued during their membership.

2. 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.
3. 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 (*under rule 6*), the committee (*at a committee meeting or under rule 12*), or the incumbent. All other posts to come up for re-election annually, but the incumbent may be reelected for as many years as the membership, the committee, or the incumbent desires.
4. 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 *Exofficio 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.
5. Before each Annual General Meeting there shall be issued to each Ordinary and Honorary member of the Society a *Newsletter* 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.
6. 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.

7. 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.
 8. 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.
 9. No rule shall be altered except by the majority vote of the Ordinary members present at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.
 10. A copy of these rules shall be sent to each ORDINARY member upon election.
 11. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman the committee shall be chaired by an officer elected by the committee.
 12. 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.
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THE BILL SUTHERLAND AWARD

This award was set up in memory of Bill Sutherland an early member of CAS, who passed away in 1990. It is awarded each year at the AGM, to a CAS member who has shown outstanding enthusiasm for astronomy and the Society.

Work for the award can be of any astronomical or Society nature and may include (but not exclusively) things like observational drawings, photographs, CCD images, newsletter articles, Talks given to the Society.

Obviously some work comes to the attention of the awarding committee automatically (such as a newsletter article), other work by its nature may need to be brought to the attention of the awarding committee by its author (e.g. photographs).

Remember we are not necessarily looking for technical excellence but rather enthusiasm for astronomy and CAS, so enter your work for consideration for this award.

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" *f*16 refracting telescope.
3. 3¾" *f*12 refracting telescope.
4. Helios 4" refractor.
5. 80mm refractor (Short Tube).
6. Meade ETX90.
7. 6" *f*8 open frame Newtonian reflecting telescope.
8. 6" *f*4 rich field Newtonian reflecting telescope.
9. 6" *f*8 'Siberia' Newtonian reflecting telescope.
10. 6" *f*5, Event Horizon reflecting telescope.
11. 10" Orion reflecting telescope.
12. 8¾" *f*5.6 'Dark Star' Newtonian reflecting telescope.
13. Celestron NexStar 8, 8" S.C.T. with NexStar goto system
14. Celestron 130GT. 5" *f*5 reflecting scope, with NexStar goto system
15. Celestron 80GT. 3.1" *f*5 refractor with NexStar goto system.
16. Paralux 114mm Newtonian reflecting 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.

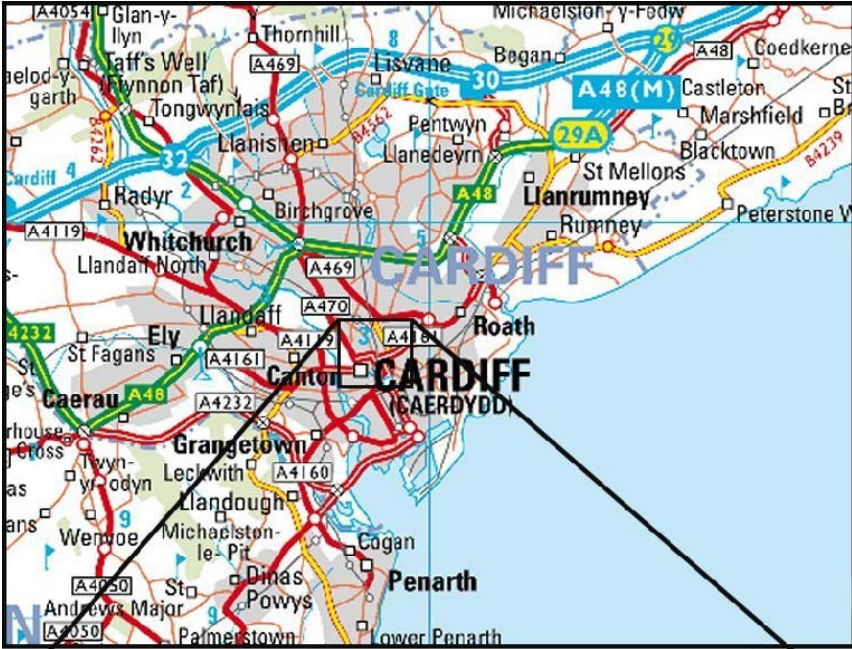
LIBRARY

There are over 200 books, videos and CDs in the library available to members. New titles are added every year, either bought or donated: suggestions are welcome. A list of books can be viewed via our internet website or in a binder held in the library itself.

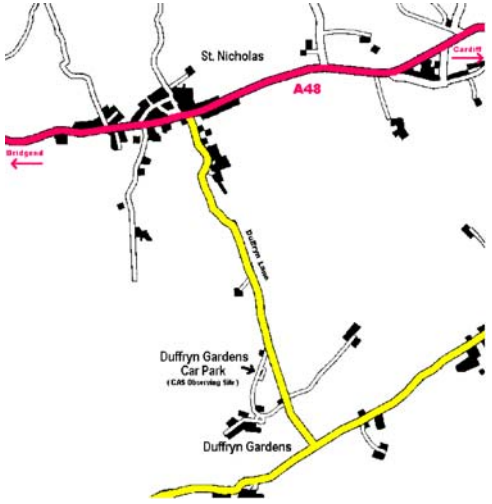
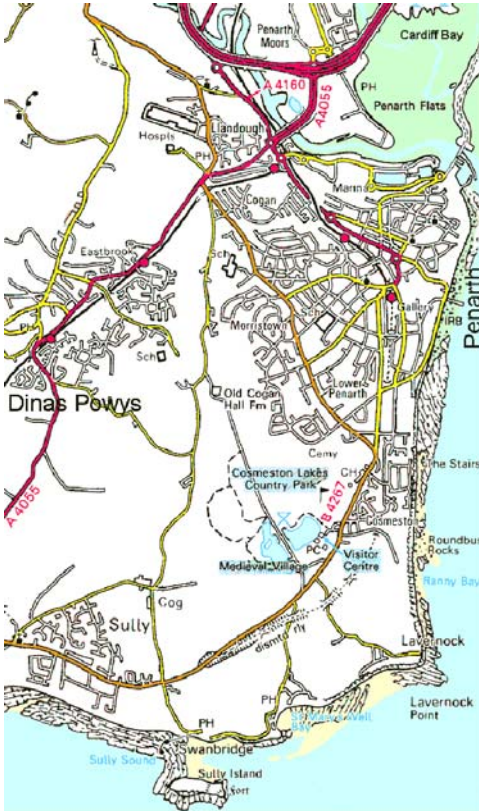
DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

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.

WHERE TO FIND US



OUR OBSERVING SITES

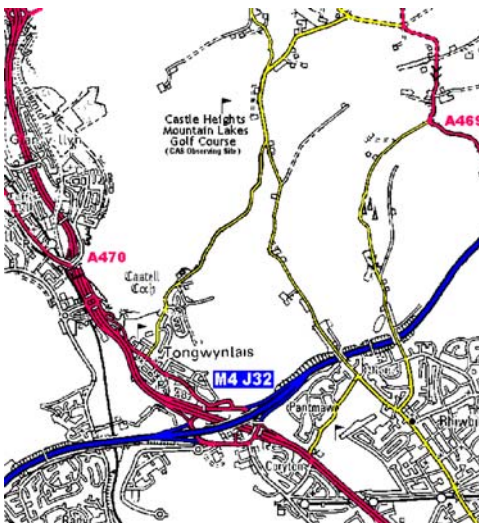


Above: CAS Observing Site at Duffryn Gardens Car Park

Latitude: 51°26'46"N (51.446027)
Longitude: 3°18'09"W (-003.302440)

Top Left: CAS Observing Site at Cosmeston Lakes Country Park.

Latitude: 51°24'59"N (51.416537)
Longitude: 3°10'57"W (-003.182443)



Bottom Left: CAS Observing Site at Castle Heights Golf Course

Latitude: 51°33'09"N (51.552437)
Longitude: 3°14'16"W (-003.237702)

NOTE: Larger versions of these maps can be found in the "About CAS" section of our Web Site, at:

www.cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

