



## HANDBOOK 2009-2010

Introduction	1
Rhagarweiniad	2
Mission Statment	3
Committee 2009-2010	3 - 4
Programme 2009-2010	4 - 5
Constitution	6 - 7
Rules	7 - 9
Headquarters	9
Data Protection Act	9
Telescopes	10
Library	10
The Bill Sutherland Award	10
Where To Find Us	11
Observing Site	12



## **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 1<sup>st</sup> and prompt payment is appreciated.

***A warm and friendly welcome promised for all!!!***

## **RHAGARWEINIAD**

Sefydlwyd y Cymdeithas Seryddol Caerdydd yn nghorffennaf 1975 gan Dr Bob Owens a Dave Powell trwy cyfarfod allan o dre yn Llundian gan y Cymdeithas Seryddiaeth Prydeinig a chynhelir yng gherddi Dyffryn. Mae Dave Powell o hyd yn aelod, ac mae'r cymdeithas dal yn datblugy ei weithgareddau, trwy cefnogiaeth brwdfrydol y pwyllgor.

Erbyn hyn fe cynnyddir y nifer o aelodau I dros 200 sy'n dod o lefydd daearyddol aeang, gan cynnwys De Cymru, De Gorllewin Cymru, a'r Gwlad Gorllewin. Er gwaethaf y teithio hyr, mae ynna fel arfer dros 60 o aelodau yn troi I fyny, ac ambell i dro mae'r nifer dros 100.

Cynhelir y cyfarforiadau ar prynhawn lau pob yn ail, o Medi i Gorffennaf, yn Prifysgol Caerdydd, ac yn dechrau am 7:30. Mae gan y Prifysgol Caerdydd adrannau seryddiaeth a fisseg byd enwog ac mae'r cymdeithas yn derbyn cefnogaeth anferth oddi wrth pawb ynno gan cynnwys ein proffeswr llywyddol Mike Disney.

Mae'r rhaglen yn cynnwys amryw o drafodaethau, dadleuon, a darlithia. Anelyir y rhaglennu tuag at pob lefel o diddordeb gan gynnwys rhai i dechreuwr a rhai cymleth a cynhwysfawr. Mae'r cymdeithas yn atynnu areithwyr rhagorol o led led Prydain. Cynhelir nifer o sessiynau sylwedyddi yn un o ddau lefydd penodol - lle mae'r aelodau yn cael siawns i edrych tau'r awyr nos gyda cymorth sylwedydd profiadol, ac i defnyddio telescopau'r cymdeithas. I'r rhai sydd angen cymorth fe cynhelir twr llygad noeth i dechrau'r nôs.

Mae ynna llyfyrgeall cynhwysfawr ar gael i bob aelod, ac mae telescopau ar gael i'w benthgyl trwy trefniant hawdd. Cyhoeddir llythyr-newyddion o dro i dro sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth o digwyddiadau a gweithgareddau fuan. Mae gan bob aelod y siawns i gyfranu.

Mae'r cymdeithas aml yn cael ei gynnwys yn rhaglenni addysg leol, ar y deledu, a'r radio, a hefyd yn ymuno mewn digwyddiadau cenedlaethol er enghraifft yr wythnos gwybodaeth a'r canolfan dargynfyddiad Techniquet. Mae ynna map ar tudalen 11 sy'n dangos safle'r cymdeithas, sydd yn hawdd i dod o hyd iddo ac yn agos i'r orsaf trên a bws. Mae ynno llawer o lefydd agos ermwyn parcio ceir.

Os gennych unrhyw problemau allwch cysyllti a pwyllgorwr (rhifau ffôn ar tudalenau 3 a 4).

Byddau'n pleswr mawr as allwch wneud ymdrech i mynychu – mae'n cefnogol i'r arweithwyr os bydd gennym cynulleidfa braisg ac yn wneud iddi'n hawddach i attynu'r arweithwyr gorau.

Tanysgrifiad: Oedolion: £15.00 Plant: £2.50 Teuluoedd: £20.00

By disgwyl y tanysgrifiad erbyn Medi 1<sup>af</sup> ac rydyn yn gwerthfawrogi taliad brau.

***Fe addewid croeso cynhes a cyfeillgar i bawb.***

## 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 2009-2010

### PRESIDENT

Professor M J Disney FRAS  
Professor of Observational Astronomy  
Department of Physics  
Cardiff University

### CHAIRMAN

Roger Butler  
11 Castle Road, Tongwynlais, Cardiff.  
CF15 7JQ.  
Tel: 029 2081 0965  
email: Chairman@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk.

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

Martin Chick  
Myddlyn, Clôs Cefn Glas, Rowan Gardens, Llantwit Fardre. CF38 2BS  
Tel: 01443 206 594  
Mobile: 07971 547 820  
email: Vice.Chairman@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY/ PUBLIC EVENTS ORGANISER

Theresa Cooper  
8 Nant Lais, Corntown, Vale of Glamorgan.  
CF35 5SA.  
Tel: 01656 646 920  
email: Assistant.Secretary@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk  
Public.Events.Organizer@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### OBSERVATORY PROJECT MANAGER

Grahame Carter  
28 Garth Estate, Abertridwr, Caerphilly.  
CF83 4ES  
Tel: 029 2083 1427  
email: Observatory.Project.Manager@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Professor M Edmunds  
Astrophysics Group,  
Department of Physics  
Cardiff University

### SECRETARY

David Powell  
1 Tal-y-Bont Road, Ely, Cardiff. CF5 5EU  
Tel: 029 2055 1704  
Mobile 07803 744 548  
email: Secretary@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### TREASURER

Christine Saunders  
131 Manor Chase, Beddau,  
Rhondda Cynon Taff. CF38 2JF  
Tel: 01443 204 688  
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### PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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52 Heol Nant Castan, Rhiwbina,  
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### PUBLICITY OFFICER

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Mobile: 07720 - 118004  
email: Publicity.Officer@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Claire Howes  
40 Shirdale Close  
Maesycwmmr, Hengoed. CF82 7QL  
Tel: 07766 303 617  
email: Membership.Secretary@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

## COMMITTEE 2009-2010

### DIRECTOR of OBSERVATIONS

Bob Biss  
33 Arles Road, Ely ,Cardiff. CF5 5AN.  
Tel: 029 2055 1198  
email: Director.of.Observations@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR of OBSERVATIONS

Marc Delaney  
2 Vincent Close, Barry, Vale of Glam. CF63 2AG  
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emai: Assistant.Director.of.Observations@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### CURATOR of INSTRUMENTS

Steven Bowerman  
41 Penlan Road, Llandough, Penarth, Vale of Glam. CF64 2LT.  
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email: Curator.of.Instruments@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### LIBRARIAN / DARK SKY CO-ORDINATOR

Joan Thomas  
166 Albany Road, Roath, Cardiff. CF24 3RW.  
Tel: 029 2049 7594  
email: Librarian@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk  
Dark.Sky.Co-ordinator@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### UNIVERSITY LIAISON OFFICER

Robert H. Lang  
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### JUNIOR REP

Amanda Peters  
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Tel: 07933 102 789  
email: Junior.Representative@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### COMMITTEE MEMBER

**Christopher Fluck**  
1 Fairway Drive, Caerphilly. CF83 2NP.  
Tel: 029 2088 1241  
Email: Ordinary.Member.1@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

### COMMITTEE MEMBER

Peter Bennett  
6 Church Close, Llantwit Fardre. CF38 2NW.  
Tel: 01443 203 247  
Email: Ordinary.Member.2@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk

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## Cardiff Astronomical Society Programme 2009 - 2010

### 2009

- |                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> September  | Did Welshmen observe the Moon with Telescopes before Galileo.               | Dr. Allan Chapman, University of Oxford.                             |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> September | The Cosmic Keyhole: How Astronomy Is Unlocking the Secrets of the Universe. | Will Gater, Astronomy Now Magazine.                                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> October    | Lunatick Astronomy  | Andrew Lound, Birmingham, UK co-ordinator for The Planetary Society. |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> October   | The Joys of Viewing, A Personal tour of the night skies.                    | Andy Burns, Wiltshire Astronomical Society.                          |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> October   | Astronomy and the New Media.  | Robert Simpson, Cardiff University.                                  |

## **Cardiff Astronomical Society Programme 2009 - 2010**

12 <sup>th</sup> November	Small Scopes- Big Skies.	Martin Griffiths
26 <sup>th</sup> November	'Not fare well, But fare forward, Voyagers.'	Roger Butler, Cardiff Astronomical Society.
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Back to Basics, First night out, Tips on Observing the night sky	David Powell, Cardiff Astronomical Society.

### **2010**

7 <sup>th</sup> January	Three Sides to the Sun.	Nick Howes, Avebury Wiltshire.
21 <sup>st</sup> Januray	To Infinity and Beyond, the Journeys of an Astronomer.	Andrew Green, Cambridge.
4 <sup>th</sup> February	400 Years of the Telescope and the Next 20?	Prof. Mike Edmunds, Cardiff University.
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Can we take Cosmology Seriously? The Debate.	Prof. Mike Disney and Prof. Steve Eales, Cardiff University.
4 <sup>th</sup> March	The Star Formation History of the Universe - Results from the Blast Experiment.	Dr. Enzo Pascale, Cardiff University.
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Infrared Space Astronomy.	Prof. Matt Griffin, Cardiff University.
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Annual General Meeting.	Cardiff Astronomical Society.
15 <sup>th</sup> Aprril	The Messier Marathon.	Grahame Carter, Cardiff Astronomical Society.
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Venus and Venus Express.	Prof. Fred Taylor, Oxford University.
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Practical Astronomy.	Brian Sheen, Cornwall.
27 <sup>th</sup> May	How the Outer Planets were not Discovered.	Colin Steele, Sheffield.
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Is the Sun Really Worth Observing?	Dr. Steve Wainwright, Swansea.
24 <sup>th</sup> June	MoD X-Files.	Nick Pope, London.
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Three Short Talks.	Members of Cardiff Astronomical Society

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, WEB site or at meetings.

# 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 reductions 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.

## 5. **Financial Year**

The financial year of the Society shall commence on 1<sup>st</sup> March

## 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 Committee Members and any necessary election of Committee Members for the next session.

**(b)** Ordinary meetings shall normally 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 comprised of a **minimum of 10 posts** made up of the three Essential Posts and at least seven Non-Essential Posts. Posts should be filled by adult members of at least 18 years of age.

**(b)** The Committee shall be made up of the following posts:

### ESSENTIAL POSTS

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

### NON-ESSENTIAL POSTS

Assistant Secretary

Assistant Director of Observations

Curator of Instruments

Director of Observations

Dark Skies Co-ordinator



## **CONSTITUTION continued**

Junior Representative

Librarian

Membership Secretary

Observatory Project Manager

Ordinary members (TWO - Term of office – one year only)

Public Events Organizer

Publications Officer

Publicity Officer

University Liaison Officer

Vice Chairman

Additionally, the Committee may also, at its discretion, create or dissolve Non-Essential Posts.

**(c)** All Committee members (other than the two ORDINARY Members) may remain in post without the need for annual re-election, unless an application is made by any of the membership.

**(d)** For each Committee meeting there shall be a quorum which shall be the greater of half of the Committee membership or **eight** Committee members.

**(e)** The Committee shall meet at least once per quarter.

**(f)** The Committee shall be the management and administrative body of the Society and will be responsible for its activities.

**(g)** No person shall stand for election without his/her prior consent.

### **8. Liability Insurance**

The Committee, at its discretion, may purchase Trustee Liability Insurance from Society funds.

### **9. Headquarters**

The Headquarters of the Society shall be published annually in the Member's Handbook.

## **RULES**

1. The Society shall consist of ORDINARY, HONORARY, JUNIOR (aged 16 and under) and ASSOCIATE members. JUNIOR members under the age of 14 must be accompanied at all times by an adult. ORDINARY members shall have the right of attending and voting at all meetings of the Society; of proposing candidates for election to the Committee; and of serving, if elected, on the Committee or in any office of the Society. ORDINARY, HONORARY and JUNIOR members have the right of receiving newsletters and notices issued during membership.

2. ORDINARY and JUNIOR members shall pay an annual subscription. This shall become due on the first day of September annually. Members whose subscriptions are in arrears by over three months will be removed from the Society's records (except in exceptional circumstances when the Committee may, at their discretion, waive this rule).
3. HONORARY memberships may be awarded at the discretion of the Committee
4.
  - a) The two ORDINARY Committee Members may stand for one year only, after which they must stand down. One year must elapse before they are eligible for re-election as ORDINARY members.
  - b) If, during the year a suitable vacancy arises on the Committee, then an ORDINARY committee member may be placed immediately into this post. At the time of the Annual General Meeting, if an ORDINARY member has been placed onto a post of the Committee and wishes to retain the post, then they must stand for election in the normal way. the requirement to stand down at end of the session would not apply. However, those members would be required to stand for election at the AGM.
5. The election of committee members will take place at the Annual General meeting.
6. The Committee has the right to co-opt members for a special purpose.
7. The Committee may fill any vacancies that might arise until the next Annual General Meeting.
8. The Society can, at the discretion of the Committee, have a PRESIDENT and up to three VICE PRESIDENTS. The incumbents of these posts are not eligible for election to the Committee, nor do they have voting rights – unless they are also fully paid-up members. The Committee, at their discretion, may change the incumbents of these posts at any time, or when the incumbent stands down.
9. Before each Annual General Meeting the Society will issue to each ORDINARY and HONORARY member of the Society a Newsletter which shall contain the names and posts of the Committee. Any members wishing to apply for committee membership shall complete a nomination form, supported by not less than two ORDINARY members, which must be received by the Secretary not less than **fourteen** days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
10. The Committee shall, upon a requisition signed by not less than ten ORDINARY members of the Society, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting. A notice of the date and object of such an Extraordinary 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.

11. 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.
  12. 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 an Extraordinary General Meeting.
  13. No rule or point of constitution shall be altered except by the majority vote of the ORDINARY members present at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose. A copy of these amended rules/points of constitution shall be sent to each ORDINARY and HONORARY member.
  14. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Committee shall be chaired by a Committee Member elected by the Committee.
  15. Special meetings of the Committee shall be called by not less than five 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.
  16. The Committee, as the management of the Society, reserves the right to refuse membership or to revoke membership of any person or persons who act against the aims or interests of the Society. Before effecting the exercise of this power, the Committee shall in writing indicate to the person concerned why it is contemplating exercising the power and shall afford the person concerned an opportunity to make representations in writing before the Committee reaches its decision.
  17. Minutes shall be kept of Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings of the Society.
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## Headquarters

Cardiff School of Physics and Astronomy  
Cardiff University  
Queens Buildings, The Parade, Cardiff. CF24 2AA.

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## 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.

## TELESCOPES

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

1. 8" *f*10 Meade Schmidt-Casseraian
2. 20x70 Binoculars with tripod.
3. 3" *f*16 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 'Tal-2' Newtonian reflecting telescope.
10. 6" *f*8 'Siberia' Newtonian reflecting telescope.
11. 6" *f*5, 'Event Horizon' reflecting telescope.
12. 10" 'Orion' reflecting telescope.
13. 8¾" *f*5.6 'Dark Star' Newtonian reflecting telescope.
14. Celestron NexStar 8, 8" S.C.T. with NexStar goto system
15. Celestron 130GT. 5" *f*5 reflecting scope, with NexStar goto system
16. Celestron 80GT. 3.1" *f*5 refractor with NexStar goto system.
17. Paralux 114mm Newtonian reflecting telescope.

In addition the Society also possesses 10" & 12" Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope which are for use at the proposed Observatory and at observing sessions, and are NOT available for loan to members.

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## 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.

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## THE BILL SUTHERLAND AWARD

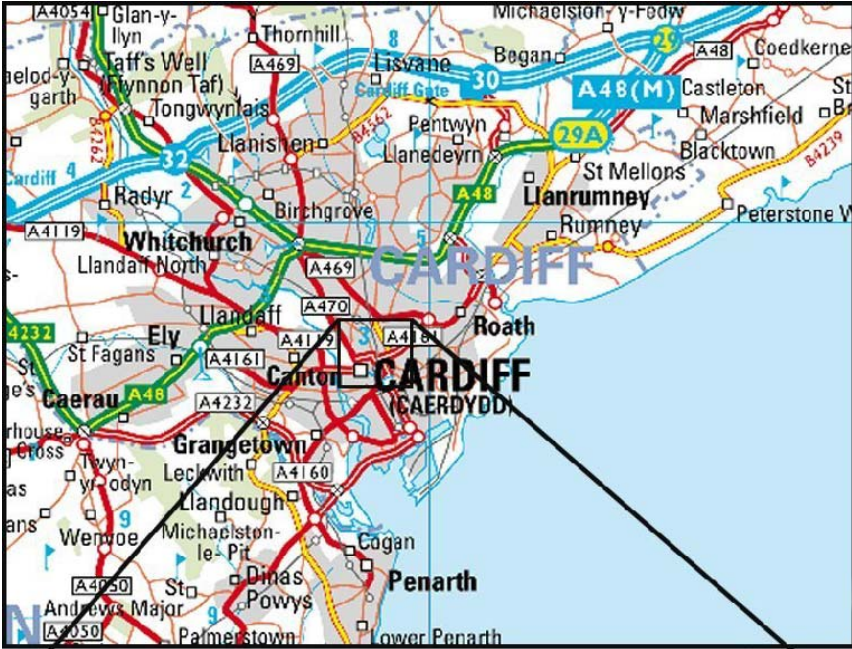
This award was set up in memory of Bill Sutherland an early member of CAS, who passed away in 1990. It is awarded each year at the AGM, to a CAS member who has shown outstanding enthusiasm for astronomy and the Society.

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.

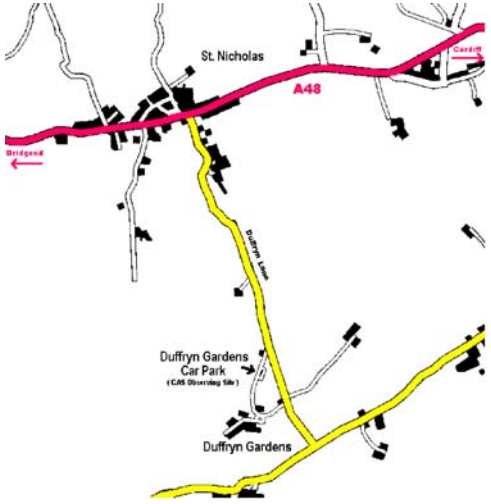
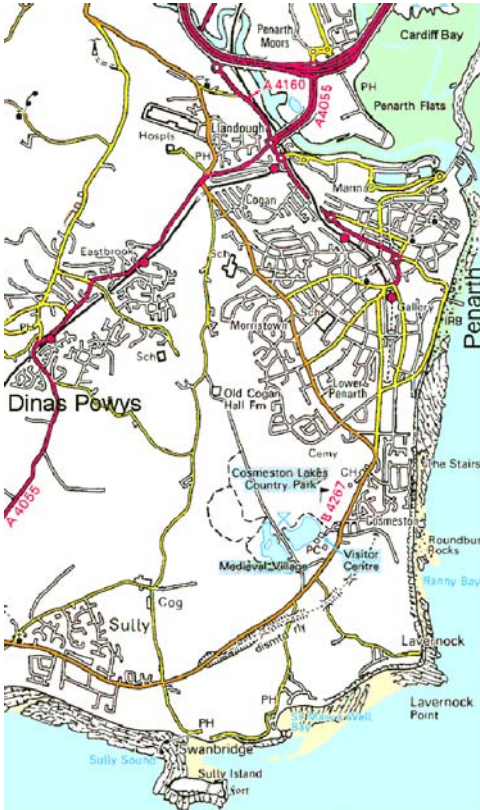
Obviously some work comes to the attention of the awarding committee automatically (such as a newsletter article), other work by its nature may need to brought to the attention of the awarding committee by it author (e.g. photographs).

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.

# WHERE TO FIND US



## OUR OBSERVING SITES

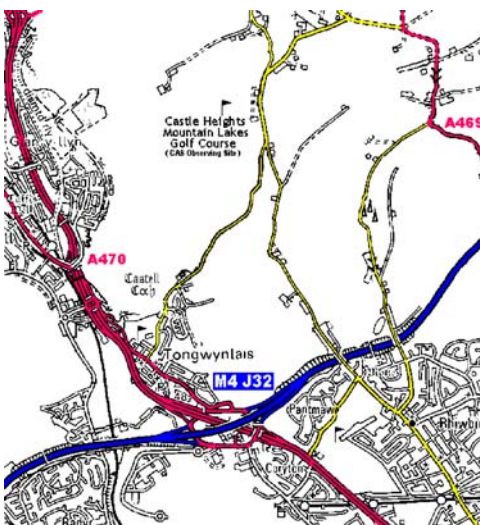


**Above: CAS Observing Site at Duffryn Gardens Car Park**

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](http://www.cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk)



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Web Site: [www.cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk](http://www.cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk) email: [info@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk](mailto:info@cardiff-astronomical-society.co.uk)