

Welcome to CaDAS



Who are we ?

Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society (CaDAS) came into being in January 1990, following the merger of two neighbouring societies, Cleveland A.S. and Darlington A.S., which had existed since 1979 and 1980 respectively. CaDAS has currently about 100 members.

Where do we meet ?

We meet once per month from September to June, usually on the second Friday. Meetings are held at the Wynyard Planetarium near Thorpe Thewles village, just outside Stockton, off the A177 Durham Road. Most meetings feature a talk by a guest speaker, sometimes a professional astronomer and sometimes a fellow amateur. These talks are always on a fairly non-technical level; no prior knowledge of astronomy is necessary to join the Society, and new members, novices included, are always more than welcome.

What else do we do ?

Though many of our members are casual or “armchair” astronomers, we also have several dedicated and expert observers among our ranks. Some of our members are excellent at astrophotography taking stunning images of the planets and deep sky objects such as the Orion Nebula. Others have built their own telescopes. Many of our members own telescopes, and several have built impressive private observatories. Others travel to diverse parts of the world to observe total solar eclipses. There are many ways to do astronomy!

A short history of our venue

In the 1990s, in collaboration with Cleveland County Council, the Wynyard Public Observatory was erected in the Wynyard Woodland Park near Thorpe Thewles. This observatory was inaugurated by the Astronomer Royal in February 1994, and since then has been used to show objects of the night sky to CaDAS members and the public. The dome has seen various telescopes, and currently it houses a computer controlled 14 inch reflector which is an ex-research instrument of Durham University. In addition to the telescope in the dome, CaDAS owns many portable instruments that are used for public observing sessions or are on loan to our members.

An even bigger project, also in conjunction with the council, was the construction of the magnificent Wynyard Planetarium, also in the Woodland Park. Wynyard Planetarium was officially opened in November 2001, and it provided planetarium shows to the public and to schools for many years. After the council support for the facilities came to an end in 2013, the charitable organisation TASC (Teesside Astronomical Science Centre) was founded to keep the planetarium open for the public.

Today TASC arranges regular public planetarium shows followed by using the observatory, weather permitting. Future plans include the improvement of the facilities and expanding shows to accommodate schools as well. This is dependent on a pool of volunteers being able to give their time to help. In addition to that, TASC provides the planetarium building as a venue for CaDAS meetings.

We at CaDAS are always ready to welcome new members of all ages and levels of experience, from complete novice to expert! Our annual subscription is currently £12 for adults, £8 for members in full-time education, and £20 for family membership. So why not come along and see us?

See the attached programme for details of our meetings during the current season. For further information about our current events you may contact our programme manager Neil Haggath at meetings-secretary@cad-as-astro.org.uk or any other committee member.

You can find us online at www.cadas-astro.org.uk, and our observatory venue at www.wynyard-planetarium.net. You can also find us on Facebook where we are “Cleveland & Darlington Astronomical Society (CaDAS)” while the planetarium activities can be followed using “Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory”.

Transit Newsletter

The Society produces the newsletter *Transit*, which is sent to members by e-mail. If, after paying your annual subscription, you don't receive your copy during the next quarter, please contact the Editor, Jon Mathieson, whose details are given later in this pack. Any material for inclusion in *Transit* should be sent to Jon by post or (preferably) email.



Our committee

The following are the CaDAS Committee, elected at the AGM of 12 Jun 2015:

Chairman	Dr Jürgen Schmoll
General Secretary	Julia Goudge
Programme Secretary	Neil M. Haggath FRAS
Treasurer	Sue Barnes
Communications and Information Secretary (also the Editor of <i>Transit</i>)	Jon Mathieson
Curator of Instruments	Dave Lewis
Floor members	Keith Johnson
	Peter Hanna
	Simon Gotch
	Ian Riach
	Don Martin
Webmaster	

Points of Contact:

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Julia Goudge:	general-secretary@cadas-astro.org.uk
Neil Haggath:	meetings-secretary@cadas-astro.org.uk
Sue Barnes:	treasurer@cadas-astro.org.uk
Jon Mathieson:	info@cadas-astro.org.uk
Don Martin:	webmaster@cadas-astro.org.uk



Monthly Meetings 2015-16

Our meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7.15 p.m., at Wynyard Planetarium (apart from the AGM).

- 11 September 2015** “The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope –
Watching the Universe go by”
by Dr. Alastair Edge of Durham University
- 9 October** “Refurbishing our New Projector” + Planetarium Show
by Dr. Jürgen Schmoll, Chairman of CaDAS
- 13 November** "Surveying the Universe with DESI
(Dark Energy Survey Instrument)"
by Prof. Shaun Cole of Durham University
- 11 December** “Monster Magnets: Stellar Birth Control”
by Dr. Sven van Loo of Leeds University
- 8 January 2016** “Beginners’ Guide to the Sky”
by Ian Morris of CaDAS
- 12 February** “Astrophotography”
by Dr. Jürgen Schmoll, Chairman of CaDAS
- 11 March** "How Cosmic Evolution Reveals how Intelligent
Life can Form"
by Prof. Chris Conselice of Nottingham University
- 8 April** “The Search for Life in the Universe”
by Gary Fildes of Kielder Observatory
- 13 May** “How Big is Space?”
by Neil Haggath FRAS of CaDAS
- 10 June** AGM plus social evening,
Venue t.b.d.

Any queries, please call Neil on 07900 653213, or contact him by email using meetings-secretary@cadastro.org.uk. Please allow a few days for replies, as Neil works away from home during the week.