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SUMMER NEWSLETTER JULY 2016

Dear friends,

It's *that* time of year again! Time for me to bring you the news for the coming CaDAS season.

Once again, I've managed to complete the programme of speakers in time for this newsletter. As well as some old friends, I'm pleased to say that we have four new guest speakers, visiting us for the first time.

As many of you will know, I'm still working away from home (away from my adopted home of Derby, that is) as a contractor, and living in two places at once. As I write this, I'm actually between contracts, but I hope to have a new one any day now, which will be "darn sarf" yet again. Fortunately, I've still been able to make it to most of the meetings in the past season, and hope to do so again in the coming season – apart from September, when as always, I'll be at Horncastle Astronomy Weekend.

We continue the theme of having "practical astronomy" talks in January and February, when we have dark skies and the chance of taking out telescopes after the meeting, and also when we tend to have an influx of visitors, due to Christmas telescopes and/or Brian Cox on the telly. In January, Jürgen will talk about "How Telescopes are Made", including how to make your own; the following month, Dr. John McCue will talk about observing double stars. By a fortunate coincidence of timing, the March talk, by a guest speaker, is also of a practical nature – it's on observing occultations, by Mell Jeffery, who is the BAA's coordinator for such observations.

When we have university speakers, it appears that some members are either put off by the subject, or come along and then find that the talk is too advanced. I always ask the academic speakers to pitch their talks for an audience of intelligent laypeople – but of course, some are better than others at doing so! The Committee has asked me to "rate" the talks by how technical they are likely to be – something akin to "one to three chillis", as Jürgen puts it. This is easy for me to do when I already know the speaker – less so when I've never met them or heard the talk! But I'm using the following scale:

Amateur talk

Academic subject, but “not too technical” presentation

Academic subject, may be somewhat advanced

For this season, applying the ratings is easy, and you’ll see that there are no talks rated three! We have three academic speakers; two of them are old friends of CaDAS from Durham University, Drs. Mark Swinbank and Pete Edwards. The other, Julian Onions of Nottingham University, is a chap whom I know; I’ve heard him speak at Horncastle, and while his subject might sound a bit off-putting, I can assure you that his presentation won’t be.

If you have any queries about any of our events, please contact me; my details are given above. I have a laptop and mobile dongle at my “weekday address”, so I can usually respond to e-mails within a day or two.

Alternatively, contact Julia Goudge, our General Secretary, at

general-secretary@cadastro.org.uk

1. Monthly Meetings 2016-17

The following are the details of this season's monthly meetings. As usual, all meetings are on Friday evenings, starting at 7.15 p.m., at Wynyard Planetarium.

Amateur talk

Academic subject, but "not too technical" presentation

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| 9 September 2016 | "Detecting Meteors by Radio" #
by Joe Gordon of Newcastle AS |
| 14 October | "Cold Dark Matter – Is it cold, is it dark and is it matter?" ##
by Julian Onions of Nottingham University |
| 11 November | "The New Solar System" #
by Dr. Michael Martin-Smith of Hull AS |
| 9 December | "John Goodricke and Edward Pigott, the Fathers of Variable Star
Astronomy" #
by Martin Lunn MBE, formerly of the York Museum |
| 13 January 2017 | "How Telescopes are Made" #
by Dr. Jürgen Schmoll, Chairman of CaDAS |
| 10 February | "Observing Double Stars" #
by Dr. John McCue FRAS, Honorary Vice-President of CaDAS |
| 10 March | "Occultations – What, How and Why?" #
by Mell Jeffery of Scarborough AS, BAA Occultation Section Director |
| 14 April | "100 Years of Gravitational Lensing" ##
by Dr. Mark Swinbank of Durham University |
| 12 May | "Einstein, Einstein, Give us a Wave!" ##
by Dr. Pete Edwards of Durham University |
| 9 June | AGM plus social evening,
Venue and format t.b.d. |

2. Quiz Night

Last year's "pub quiz" night, which replaced the Thomas Wright Trophy, was quite a success, so we're doing the same again this year. This time, it's our turn to host it. This will be a separate event from our monthly meetings – date and venue to be announced.

The usual three societies are invited, i.e. Durham AS, Durham University AS and CaDAS. But it's no longer a direct competition between societies; anyone present can form teams, with a maximum of four people per team, and the more teams, the better! Indeed, last year, some people formed teams consisting of both CaDAS and Durham members. This is now purely a social evening and a "fun" quiz, with a small prize for the winning team.

The questionmaster will once again be Yours Truly – but I promise to make the questions a bit easier than they were for the old style quiz.

3. Yorkshire Astromind

This year, the prestigious Yorkshire Astromind competition will be hosted by Huddersfield A.S., on Saturday 29 October, between 1.00 and about 4.00 p.m. Naturally, all CaDAS members are welcome to come along as spectators. The venue is their meeting room at 4A Railway Street, Huddersfield (next to the railway station); if anyone wants to come, the postcode is HD1 1JP, and here's the location:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=414342&y=416787&z=0&sv=HD1+1JP&st=2&pc=HD1+1JP&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf>

For those who don't know, Astromind is open to all the societies in Yorkshire, though only half a dozen regularly compete. (OK, so we don't quite qualify geographically, but many years ago, I was first invited to take part, by virtue of being a Yorkshireman by birth.) Each society puts up a single contestant; the quiz includes individual "hot seat" and speed rounds, with *Mastermind*-style grillings.

Yours Truly is a six-times champion, but I've long since "retired", and for the last 12 years, I've chaired the competition and set the questions. I'm doing so again this year.

Two other former CaDAS members, Darran Summerfield and Rob Peeling, have also won the competition in recent years, but both have since left us for other parts of the country. Last year, Jürgen represented us, and made a very creditable effort, being beaten into second place by a single point.

So would anyone like to volunteer to uphold the honour of CaDAS? If so, please let the Committee know ASAP.

4. Scarborough Summer Star Festival

Scarborough and Ryedale A.S. are holding their annual Summer Star Festival over the long weekend of Friday 5 to Monday 8 August, with three nights of observing – weather permitting, of course! The site is Adderstone Field in Dalby Forest, near Pickering; it's an excellent dark sky site, with plenty of room for camping. The cost is £30 per adult. Be warned, however; the site is literally a field, so the accommodation is your own tent or caravan. (There are toilets, though!)

Advance booking is essential. For full details, and to download a booking form, go to the SARAS web site, www.scarborough-ryedale-as.org.uk/saras/starfest/starfest-2016.

I've been to four of these events, and can tell you that it's an excellent weekend.

5. Wynyard Observatory and Planetarium

For details of Planetarium shows and public observing evenings, visit www.wynyard-planetarium.net. You can also call the Planetarium on 01740 630544; messages are currently being read remotely.

6. Telescopes for Loan

CaDAS owns two telescopes, a 10-inch Dobsonian and an 8-inch Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain, which are available for loan to Society members. A 4-inch Newtonian, owned by the Planetarium, can also be made available for loan.

If you would like to borrow one of the telescopes, please contact Peter Hanna. You will be able to collect it at one of our meetings, and return it at the next. All the telescopes can be transported by car.

It hardly needs stating that the telescopes must be properly looked after, and stored indoors when not in use. The Meade in particular needs to be handled with care.

7. Transit

Jon Mathieson continues to do an excellent job as Communications and Information Secretary and Editor of *Transit*. However, he hasn't been able to produce a *Transit* for some time, due to lack of material. If no-one submits material, then there is no newsletter!

If anyone wishes to contribute any material, please send it to Jon; his contact details are: 12 Rushmere, Marton, Middlesbrough. TS8 9XL.
E-mail: jon.mathieson@jonm.net.

8. The CaDAS Web Site

Just in case anyone hasn't yet seen it, we have an excellent society web site: www.cadas-astro.org.uk.

The Webmaster is Don Martin, a long-time stalwart of the Society, who has done a splendid job of setting up and maintaining the site. Don can be contacted at webmaster@cadas-astro.org.uk.

That's all for now, folks. See you all soon. Wishing you clear skies.
Neil M. Haggath