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SUMMER NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

Dear friends,

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

I've managed to complete the programme of speakers in time for this newsletter, apart from one where the speaker is known, but his title is "t.b.d.". I'm pleased to say that we have *five* new guest speakers, visiting us for the first time, as well as two old friends. In September, we have Andrew Dunn and Ben Massey, the founders of Stratobooster, a Teesside based company which is pioneering a new method of launching very small satellites into orbit from balloons. In April, we have a talk by Brian Jones, Editor of the reincarnated Yearbook of Astronomy, to which Yours Truly is now an annual contributor. I'm looking forward to that one; while I've been in regular communication with Brian for the last three years, I've yet to actually meet him!

This year is of course the fiftieth anniversary of one of Man's greatest ever achievements. In November, I'm giving a talk to celebrate the fantastic adventure that was Apollo.

For the time being – though I don't know for how long – I'm actually working, for the first time in many years, in my adopted home town of Derby! So it will be easier for me to get to the meetings than when I was working at the other end of England – though I've almost always managed it, no matter what! I expect to be at all the meetings apart from September, when as always, I'll be at Horncastle Astronomy Weekend.

We're deviating from the recent theme of having "practical astronomy" talks in January and February. Firstly, our esteemed Chairman is giving a talk on "Buying a Telescope" – so naturally, this needs to happen before Christmas! It's in October. Then in February, we're trying a new idea; instead of a talk, the meeting will be a "Bring your Telescope Workshop". If you need any help or advice with your new Christmas telescope, bring it along, and our expert observers will be happy to help. And if the weather plays ball, you might even be able to use it afterwards!

If you have any queries about any of our events, please contact me; my details are given above.

Alternatively, contact Julia Goudge, our General Secretary, at general-secretary@cadastro.org.uk

1. Monthly Meetings 2019-20

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

- 13 September 2019 "Stratobooster: Reimagining Access to Space" ##
by Andrew Dunn and Ben Massey, founders of Stratobooster Ltd.
- 11 October "Buying a Telescope" #
by Dr. Jürgen Schmoll, Chairman of CaDAS
- 8 November "One Small Step: A Celebration of Apollo" #
by Neil Haggath FRAS, CaDAS Programme Secretary
- 13 December "Meet the Moon" #
by Stuart Atkinson, astronomy writer
- 10 January 2020 "Asteroseismology" ##
by Tom Shutt of York University
- 14 February Bring Your Telescope Workshop
- 13 March "Astronomy at the End of the Rainbow" ##
by Prof. Paula Chadwick of Durham University
- 10 April Title t.b.d. #
by Brian Jones of Bradford A.S., Editor of the Yearbook of Astronomy
- 8 May "Things That go Bang in the Night (Sky)" ##
by Dr. Julian Onions of Nottingham University
- 12 June AGM plus members' short talks.

Any queries, please call Neil on 07900 653213, or e-mail meetings-secretary@cadastro.org.uk.

3. Scarborough Summer Star Festival

After an absence of a couple of years, Scarborough A.S. have resurrected their Summer Star Festival in Dalby Forest. This year's event takes place between Thursday 29 August and Monday 2 September. New Moon is on the Friday, so the sky will be good and dark!

For details, see <http://www.scarborough-ryedale-as.org.uk/saras/starfest/starfest-2019/>.

Note that advance booking is essential, as the number of people booked determines such practicalities as how many toilets to hire!

4. 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.

5. Telescopes for Loan

CaDAS now owns several assorted telescopes, which are available for loan to Society members. A formal procedure has now been put in place, whereby you can borrow one for a specified period of time; anyone who has been a member for at least one year is eligible. For details, contact the Committee.

6. 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.

7. And Finally...

And finally, I hope you won't mind me indulging in a little self-promotion again – and apologies if I'm boring anyone. For the benefit of our newer members, who might not know, I have self-published a science fiction novel, *Moonsafe Red*; I'm selling print copies for £7.99. For details, and how to order a copy if anyone is interested, see www.spaceandsanity.com/moonsafered.html. You can also read a number of reviews, by searching for it on www.goodreads.com. My great friend Paul Money – himself a published author – has paid me the absolute ultimate accolade, saying it's “up there with Sir Arthur and Asimov”!!!

Moonsafe Red is also now available for Kindle, at a mere £3.99. Search for it on the Amazon Kindle store, where you can also read the opening few pages as a sample.

Alternatively, of course, I always bring a few copies to the meetings.

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

Neil M. Haggath