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SUMMER NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

Dear friends,

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

Well, what a season this one has been! Firstly, we had a nightmare of multiple speaker cancellations and programme reshuffles. In one case, the speakers didn't even think to tell me that they couldn't come until a week before, when I e-mailed them. *Not* impressed!!! I can only apologise for messing everyone about.

In the case of that first cancellation, thanks to Jürgen, who swapped his own date at a week's notice, and to John McCue, who stepped in to fill the resulting gap. And in the second case, we're hugely indebted to our old friend Prof. Paula Chadwick, who very graciously swapped dates at three days' notice!

And then of course, the world went mad!!! Obviously, from April onwards, we haven't been able to hold meetings at all. But in May, our scheduled speaker – and my good friend – Dr. Julian Onions, kindly offered to give his talk online, via a dedicated YouTube channel. This worked very well.

A simpler method of giving talks online is via Zoom. TASC has a fully paid-up Zoom account, which can host unlimited meetings; a virtual meeting can be hosted from this account, with all the members and the speaker invited, and the latter sharing his or her screen.

It's looking unlikely that we'll be able to hold physical meetings any time soon, as even when "gatherings" are permitted again, it will be impossible to maintain "social distancing" in the Planetarium! So for the meetings of September to December, the speakers have agreed to give their talks via Zoom, if doing so in person isn't possible.

Before that, though, there is the matter of this year's AGM. This has been postponed for four weeks until Friday 10 July, and will be held by Zoom; an e-mail will be sent out to all members with a link. If enough people "attend" to make it worthwhile, this may be followed by a (very) short talk by me.

I've managed to complete the programme of speakers in time for this newsletter. I'm pleased to say that we have three new guest speakers, visiting us for the first time, as well as three old friends. Brian Jones, Editor of the reincarnated Yearbook of Astronomy - to which Yours Truly is now an annual contributor – obviously wasn't able to come in April this year, so he's now coming next May. I'm

looking forward to that one; while I've been in regular communication with Brian for the last four years, I've yet to actually meet him! (And I've no idea what his bizarre title means either!)

The other two new speakers are Dr. Susan Cartwright of Sheffield University and Prof. Brad Gibson of Hull University, in January and March respectively. I've already heard Brad's talk, "How the Universe Will End", and can tell you that it's excellent.

In April, we have the return of our old friend Mark Swinbank of Durham University. Many years ago, Mark joined our society at the age of 11; he was later taught by John McCue at Stockton Sixth Form College. He then became the third CaDAS member to gain a Ph.D. and become a professional astronomer. And since we last saw him, he has risen to the status of Professor!

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 2020-21

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 when this becomes possible again. For the September to December meetings, all the speakers will give their talks online via Zoom, if we are not yet able to hold physical meetings.

Amateur talk

Academic subject, but "not too technical" presentation

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| 11 September 2020 | "Black Holes: Science Fact, Fiction or Fantasy?" ##
by Prof. Chris Done of Durham University |
| 9 October | "It's Only a Theory': Thoughts on the Scientific Method" #
by Neil Haggath FRAS, CaDAS Programme Secretary |
| 13 November | "Exoplanets" #
by Dr. John McCue FRAS, Honorary Vice-President of CaDAS |
| 11 December | <u>"Astronomy Through Tinted Glasses: Filtering the Universe"</u> #
by Dr. Jürgen Schmoll, Chairman of CaDAS |
| 8 January 2021 | "Supernova Neutrinos" ##
by Dr. Susan Cartwright of Sheffield University |
| 12 February | "Asteroids, Comets and the Death of the Dinosaurs" #
by Martin Lunn MBE |
| 12 March | "How the Universe Will End" ##
by Prof. Brad Gibson of Hull University |
| 9 April | "Astrophysics from the Rooftop: The Durham University Astronomy Lab" ##
by Prof. Mark Swinbank of Durham University |
| 14 May | "Astronomical Scrapbook – with Apple Pies and Dinosaur Wee" #
by Brian Jones of Bradford A.S., Editor of the Yearbook of Astronomy |
| 11 June | AGM plus members' short talks. |

3. Scarborough Summer Star Festival

Last year, Scarborough A.S. resurrected their Summer Star Festival in Dalby Forest. In the current circumstances, it's hardly surprising that this year's event has had to be cancelled! It's to be hoped that it will return next year.

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 any 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...whenever!. Wishing you clear skies.

Neil M. Haggath