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## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

Dear friends,

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

Obviously, for the whole of last season, we weren't able to hold actual meetings at all, but we managed to hold a full programme of talks via Zoom, which all went really well for those of us who attended. The one and only upside was that it enabled me to book a speaker whom we could never have got normally, as she lives too far away to come in person – my friend Mary McIntyre, who gave us an excellent talk on atmospheric optics. She spoke for nearly two hours, and still kept everyone interested!

What's going to happen for the coming season is anyone's guess! We still don't know whether we'll be allowed to have physical meetings by September, so once again, the speakers for the early part of the season have agreed to come in person if it's possible by then, or give Zoom talks if not. We can only assume that things will be back to normal by the end of the year; if they aren't, then the entire country will be well and truly ruined!

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 four old friends. Brian Jones, Editor of the reincarnated Yearbook of Astronomy - to which Yours Truly is now an annual contributor – decided against giving an online talk last season, so he's now coming next April – third time lucky! 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. Leah Morabito of Durham University and David Ettie of Sunderland A.S., in September and November respectively.

Last season, we had an excellent talk by Professor Brad Gibson of Hull University. Brad said he would love to come and give us another talk, when it's possible to do so in person – so he's booked for March. And in May, we have the very welcome return of an excellent speaker whom we haven't seen for a long time now – my very good friend of three decades, Peter Rea of Cleethorpes A.S. Long-time members will remember Peter from the Cosmos North-East conventions; he was the only person to speak at all five of them.

In the winter months, I try to provide talks on “practical astronomy” topics, for when we have dark evenings and the possibility of actually getting telescopes out after the meeting. Our esteemed Chairman has promised another of these in January, though his subject is “t.b.a.” at the moment. The following month, Graham Darke of Sunderland A.S. is talking on “Astronomy in Towns and Suburbs”.

The other old friend returning is Dr. Pete Edwards of Durham University, in December. And in October, I’m afraid you will have to settle for me!

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](mailto:general-secretary@cadastro.org.uk).

Many of you will have known the late Jack Youdale FRAS ( 1932-2017 ), who was our society’s Honorary President from its founding in 1979 until his death four years ago. For the newer members who didn’t, Jack was a renowned amateur astronomer and telescope maker, and a lifelong advocate of public outreach. He was instrumental in establishing the Wynyard Observatory – now renamed the Jack Youdale Observatory – and built its original telescope.

Jack’s name is now immortalised in the sky! I’m proud to announce that as of last month, and following a proposal by me, an asteroid is officially named in his honour.

To clarify, this is nothing to do with those companies which claim to name stars after people for a fee! Those names have no “official” status whatsoever, and will never be recognised by astronomers; most of us are strongly opposed to the trade.

Asteroids, or minor planets, however, are officially named by the International Astronomical Union in honour of astronomers.

The naming of asteroids is done by a committee of the IAU called the Working Group for Small Bodies Nomenclature ( WGSBN ). Traditionally, the discoverer of an asteroid has always had the privilege of naming it; today, that still applies, subject to the name being approved by the WGSBN. However, most asteroids these days are discovered by the hundred by automated surveys, and the discoverers waive the naming privilege and hand it over to the IAU. Every so often, the WGSBN assigns a batch of names to asteroids which previously only had numbers – usually in honour of people who have contributed to astronomy.

Anyone can propose a name to the committee, with a citation to justify it. A few months ago, I submitted a citation to honour Jack; it has been approved, and the name is one of a list which became official in May. So we now have asteroid (11443) Youdale!

It’s only a tiny chunk of rock a couple of miles across, one of many thousands – but nevertheless, a Solar System body now forever bears Jack’s name.

## 1. Monthly Meetings 2021-22

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. All speakers are booked to give talks in person if this has become possible again, or online if not.

# Amateur talk

## Academic subject, but "not too technical" presentation

- 10 September 2021 "Black Holes Which Eat Galaxies" ##  
by Dr. Leah Morabito of Durham University
- 8 October "How Big is Space?" #  
by Neil Haggath FRAS, CaDAS Programme Secretary
- 12 November "Is Anybody There?" #  
by David Ettie of Sunderland A.S.
- 10 December "The Dark Side of the Universe" ##  
by Dr. Pete Edwards of Durham University
- 14 January 2022 Subject t.b.a. #  
by Dr. Jürgen Schmoll, Chairman of CaDAS
- 11 February "Astronomy in Towns and Suburbs" #  
by Graham Darke of Sunderland A.S.
- 11 March "How Astronomers Control Your Life" ##  
by Prof. Brad Gibson of Hull University
- 8 April "Astronomical Scrapbook – with Apple Pies and Dinosaur Wee" #  
by Brian Jones of Bradford A.S., Editor of the Yearbook of Astronomy
- 13 May "Mars: A Guided Tour of the Tharsis Region" #  
by Peter Rea FRAS of Cleethorpes A.S.
- 10 June AGM plus members' short talks.

## 3. Scarborough Summer Star Festival

Once again, Scarborough A.S. have had to cancel their Summer Star Festival in Dalby Forest – whether or not the Covid restrictions are lifted next month. This time, it's due to circumstances beyond their control, involving expected numbers of visitors to the forest, which mean they can't have the use of the site. It's to be hoped that it will return next year!

## 4. Jack Youdale Observatory and Wynyard Planetarium

For details of Planetarium shows and public observing evenings - whenever they become possible again - visit [www.wynyard-planetarium.net](http://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 – again, after meetings become possible again. 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.spaceandsanity.com/moonsafered.html). You can also read a number of reviews, by searching for it on [www.goodreads.com](http://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'll be bringing a few copies to the meetings, when we're able to resume them.

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

Neil M. Haggath