

WAS NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the **Worthing Astronomical Society**

Number 222

September 2008

Astronomy, a pure and simple science

OUR COMMITTEE

Most of our committee have stood down and resigned their membership thus leaving our society. Written resignations have been received and accepted from Paul Farmer, Alan Ollive, Peter Atkinson, Brian Halls and Jan Young. I am sorry that they felt unable to continue and I am sure we wish them well.

I intend to recruit a completely new committee in order to create a fresh new start.

Signed Graham Boots meeting secretary

Programme of Events

15th September 2008 Dwarf Novae – Alan Smith Christ Hospital School.

27th September 2008 WAS outing to Winchester Planetarium & Intech Science Centre contact Graham Boots Tel., 01903 505346. See details in this newsletter.

20th October 2008 Member's Evening. Members talking about their Astronomical Activities and show some of their results & AGM. Also sale of library books.

17th November 2008 Galaxy Zoo – Professor Robert Nichol Portsmouth University.

15th December 2008 Astro Alphabet Bob Mizon British Astronomical Association.

19th January 2009 Stuart Eves Solar Magnetism Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd., and New Year Social with refreshments provided and fun events.

21st September 2009 Dr Mike Leggett FRAS., FBIS., Microwave Astronomy.

Other speakers to be arranged.

Monthly society meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month except August (when we normally have a Bar-B-Que) at Emmanuel United Reform Church Hall on the corner of Heene Road and St., Michael's Road Worthing BN11 4SD from 7.30 to 10.00 pm.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions come due in September and are unchanged from last year.

Adult £16
Family £24
Junior £5 (under 16)

Please make cheques payable to Worthing Astronomical Society and send to Graham Boots 101, Ardingly Drive. Goring, Worthing West Sussex BN12 4TW.

OUTING

WAS OUTING TO WINCHESTER PLANETARIUM & INTECH SCIENCE CENTRE

On Saturday the 27th September I plan an outing for WAS members and friends to the newly opened, state of the art, Winchester Planetarium and Intech Science Exhibition which is 2 miles outside of Winchester at the Intech Science Centre. It is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm. There is free parking for 180 cars. Refreshments are available. Winchester is 62 miles from Worthing and the estimated journey time is 1 hour 11minutes.

I suggest we leave Worthing around 8.30am so as to arrive early and make the best of the day. Some of you may choose to use the day to shop in Winchester. Nearer the time I will supply road maps. For those with satellite navigation systems the postcode of Intech is SO21 1HZ.

The web site address is <http://www.intech-uk.com>

The planetarium shows currently available are :-

Black Holes: Beyond Infinity 25 minutes

Cosmic Journey III 25 minutes

The cost of each show is £2 per person (adult & children) and can all be booked in one go on the day.

These shows are shown throughout the day and you can choose the times to suit yourselves.

The entry charge into the Intec Science Centre is £6.75 per person and £4.50 per child up to age 16) so the total charges including both planetarium shows is £10.75 per adult or £8.50 per child up to age 16. I am told one should allow 2 to 3 hours to see the exhibition. I will let you choose what you wish to see and will not be collecting any money. There is no charge made by WAS.

I plan this outing to be on a car sharing bases and upon arrival we will be free to choose the shows we wish to see at times to suit our selves. In other words I do not intend us to stay together as one large group. The Intec Science Centre has about 100 exhibits, many with hands on facilities so good for children. I will confirm the shows nearer the time and let you know through WAS News if there has been any changes and any new titles.

Further details from Graham Boots Tel., 01903 505346.

OUR LIBRARY

Linda and David Storey have been running our library successfully for very many years but over a year ago they expressed a wish to retire from this position. We have announced this vacancy many times but no one has offered to take up this task. We therefore feel that the best course of action is selling off the books to members for donations in the first instant at the October monthly meeting and then to donate the remainder to other local astronomical organizations.

I take this opportunity of thanking Linda and Dave for all their hard work over all these years.

Graham Boots

OBSERVATORY

Starting Thursday the 18th September there will be the resumption of Observer's Evenings at our Observatory. These ceased back in October 2004 when the Observatory was closed prior to plans to relocate to a dark site. The Observatory is now in the grounds of Windlesham House School just off the A24 Washington. Any member wishing to attend who have not visited the site before is advised to visit the Observatory in daylight before visiting during the hours of darkness. Suggested arrival time will be 7.30 pm and you may leave when you wish as some may stay till late.

We now have two telescopes on site. There is the 12" Newtonian and a computerized 6" Celestron. Members are welcome to bring along their own instruments as well to take advantage of this really dark site.

These viewing evenings are subject to clear skies so it would be best to check with me before attending if there is any doubt about cloud cover.

Those attending will be given a small blue observatory card to show if apprehended on school grounds.

Members of Adur Astronomical Society are also invited to these evenings.

Please telephone Graham Boots before 7.00pm on Worthing 505346 if you wish to speak to me about the Observatory daylight visits or cloud cover on the evenings.

WAS News

Rob Davis, our WAS News Editor for almost 8 years has now given up this position. I am sure you will all agree that he has done a marvellous job, being consistent and producing a publication that we have enjoyed.

He will be very much missed. So on behalf of us all I say a very big thank you to Rob.

WAS News will continue and be available by way of the electronic version, and for collection at monthly meetings, for those not present a copy will be posted thanks to the continued work of Robert Kasprowicz.

Dave Wells is also continuing with his Almanac page that he has done for very many years. So again on behalf of all of us, thank you Dave.

PROPOSALS/VOTING to be announced at the September 2008 Monthly Meeting and voted on at the AGM on the 20th October 2008

That Ed Sampson is elected to the position of Chairman. A completed nomination form has been received.

That Trevor Little is elected to the position of Vice Chairman. A completed nomination form has been received.

That Graham Boots is re-elected to the position of Meetings Secretary so that he can continue his work obtaining guest speakers and arrange outings. Completed nomination form has been received.

I, Graham Boots propose that we do away with the recently introduced £2 per meeting visitors charge on the bases that they are given a free initial introduction to the society in the hope they will join.

I, Graham Boots propose that the WAS Web site known as was.org.uk be closed on the grounds that it does not serve the interest of the society and it has been used for a personal attack on myself. Also the web master, Ryan Thomas has seen fit to allow this attack to be displayed for a prolonged period of time. Also the site quality after many years still remains very disappointing for an astronomical society. Members are invited to view this site for themselves or ask me for a paper copy.

COMMITTTEE VACANCIES

Chair Person
Vice Chair Person
Business Secretary
Membership Secretary
Treasurer

Nomination forms are available and should be submitted completed to the Meeting Secretary no later than the 22nd September 2008. Those members not present at the September meeting and receiving their newsletter by post will be given up to 29th September to make their submissions.

MONTHLY SKY NOTES

Beginning at our September monthly meeting Ed Sampson will be telling us what is suitable placed in the evening sky for observing. He is on holiday at the time of the September meeting so I will stand in for him. Ed will be with us from the October meeting and thereafter when he can. This is complimentary to the Almanac which appears in each issue of WAS News that is prepared by Dave Wells on a monthly bases except August.

Newsletter compiled by Graham Boots

Please send your newsletter contributions to me including colour contributions.

Continued/ See ALMANAC on next attachment

ALMANAC

All times U.T. September/October

LUNAR

September	Date	Time	Rise	Set
First Quarter	7 th	14.04	14.33	21.13
Apogee	7 th	14.57	404,254km	
Full Moon	15 th	09.13	17.56	05.37
Perigee	20 th	03.35	368,854km	
Last Quarter	22 nd	05.04	21.58	14.57
New moon	29 th	08.12	06.10	17.16

October

Apogee	5 th	10.37	404,758 km	
First Quarter	7 th	09.04	14.36	22.05
Full Moon	14 th	20.02	16.30	05.57
Perigee	17 th	06.17	363,802 km	
Last Quarter	21 st	11.55	22.35	14.08
New moon	28 th	23.14	06.27	15.52

EARTH

September	Sunrise	Sunset
7 th	05.23	18.32
15 th	05.36	18.14
22 nd	05.47	17.58
29 th	05.58	17.42

October

7 th	06.11	17.24
14 th	06.23	17.09
21 st	06.35	16.54
28 th	06.47	16.40

PLANETS

(As at 29th September)

	Constellation	Rises	Sets	Mag.
<u>Mercury</u>	Virgo	07.36	17.44	+2.1
Unsuitably placed				
<u>Venus</u>	Virgo	08.50	18.37	-3.9
Evening object in the west				
<u>Mars</u>	Virgo	07.54	18.19	+1.6
Unsuitably placed				
<u>Jupiter</u>	Sagittarius	14.27	22.21	-2.4
Evening object in the west				
<u>Saturn</u>	Leo	03.56	17.15	+0.9
Morning object in the east				
<u>Uranus</u>	Aquarius	17.11	04.34	+5.7
Evening object in the south				
<u>Neptune</u>	Capricornus	16.14	01.55	+7.9
Evening object in the south				
<u>Pluto</u>	Sagittarius	12.48	21.52	+14.0

Have you imaged it yet

PHENOMENA

Day	Hour	September
13 th	02	Uranus at opposition
15 th	02	Venus 4°N. of Mercury
23 rd	11	Mars 4°N. of Mercury
24 th	07	Mercury at stationary point
27 th	16	Saturn 4°N. of moon
30 th	10	Mercury 1°N. of moon
October		
1 st	00	Mars 5° N. of moon
1 st	23	Venus 5°N. of moon
6 th	21	Mercury in inferior conjunction
7 th	08	Jupiter 2°N. of moon
15 th	20	Mercury at stationary point
22 nd	09	Mercury at greatest elongation W. 18°
25 th	04	Saturn 4° N. of moon
27 th	12	Mercury 7° N. of moon
29 th	22	Mars 5° N. of moon

Minima of AlgolSeptember 27th 03.54 30th 00.42October 2nd 21.30 20th 02.24 22nd 23.12 25th 20.00**Lunar Occultation's**

Times as at NEW W.A.S. Observatory site

Date	U.T.	S.A.O. No	Mag	Phase
<u>Septem</u>	<u>ber</u>			
	h. m. s.			
<u>16th</u>	23.40.54	109466	8.5	Reapp
<u>18th</u>	20.39.48	92988	8.2	Reapp
<u>18th</u>	23.35.42	93031	8.1	Reapp
<u>18th</u>	23.52.47	75489	8.7	Reapp
<u>19th</u>	21.00.56	75977	8.3	Reapp
<u>19th</u>	21.09.26	75979	7.4	Reapp
<u>19th</u>	21.29.56	75987	7.2	Reapp
<u>19th</u>	21.32.22	75988	7.7	Reapp
<u>19th</u>	21.49.31	75990	7.6	Reapp
<u>October</u>				
<u>5th</u>	18.18.36	185573	7.0	Diss
<u>5th</u>	18.21.51	185562	8.0	Diss
<u>8th</u>	19.51.52	189114	5.9	Diss
<u>8th</u>	19.56.08	189120	7.6	Diss
<u>9th</u>	20.00.18	164156	6.0	Diss
<u>10th</u>	21.17.29	164775	8.5	Diss
<u>11th</u>	18.53.04	146273	6.3	Diss
<u>16th</u>	23.29.52	75845	8.0	Reapp
<u>17th</u>	22.36.24	76559	7.9	Reapp
<u>17th</u>	23.42.43	76573	5.4	Reapp
<u>17th</u>	23.43.12	0	8.5	Reapp
<u>19th</u>	23.36.48	78477	8.5	Reapp
<u>20th</u>	23.51.30	79527	7.2	Reapp

The list above is a selection of the more easily observed evening events, (about 11% of the list available,) there are more in the wee small hours for the insomniacs amongst us

Dave Wells