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Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society (CaDAS) came into being in January 1990, following the merger of two neighbouring societies, Cleveland A.S. and Darlington A.S., which had existed since 1979 and 1980 respectively. It currently has about 40 members.

We meet once per month from September to June, usually on the second Friday. Meetings are held at the Wynyard Planetarium near Thorpe Thewles village, just outside Stockton, off the A177 Durham Road. Most meetings feature a talk by a guest speaker, sometimes a professional astronomer and sometimes a fellow amateur. These talks are always on a fairly non-technical level; no prior knowledge of astronomy is necessary to join the Society, and new members, novices included, are always more than welcome.

Though many of our members are casual or “armchair” astronomers, we also have several dedicated and expert observers among our ranks, two of whom have held important posts in the British Astronomical Association, as observing section directors.

Many of our members own telescopes, and several have built impressive private observatories. Dave Blenkinsop has several home-made telescopes, which he uses to introduce members of the public to the sky. Our founder, Dr. John McCue, has received perhaps the ultimate recognition for his work; his personal observatory has been given an official observatory code by the International Astronomical Union.

Several of our members have travelled to diverse parts of the world to observe total solar eclipses, including locations as far away as Hawaii and China. Don Martin is now a veteran of seven eclipse expeditions, and also went to Australia for the 1986 apparition of Halley’s Comet.

In October 1988, we hosted the famous “Cosmos North-East”, the biggest astronomical convention ever held in the North-East of England. This was attended by over 160 people from all over Britain, and the speakers included astronomer and TV star Heather Couper. This was followed by “Cosmos II” in 1992, at which the speakers included Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale, then Astronomer Royal, and Dr. David Malin, the world’s premier astrophotographer, from the Anglo-Australian

Observatory. Three more conventions followed in 1996, 2000 and 2004, all with prominent speakers.

Some years ago, we worked with Cleveland County Council to build the Wynyard Public Observatory, in the Wynyard Woodland Park near Thorpe Thewles. The observatory was officially opened by the Astronomer Royal in February 1994; it now houses a 19-inch reflector. Public observing evenings are held every Friday (weather permitting!), with CaDAS members operating the observatory on behalf of the Council.

An even bigger project, also in conjunction with the Council, was the construction of the magnificent Wynyard Planetarium, also in the Woodland Park. This was officially opened in November 2001. Its facilities include a video link to transmit live images from the telescope to the planetarium.

We are always ready to welcome new members of all ages and levels of experience, from complete novice to expert! Our annual subscription is a mere £9 (£4.50 for those in full-time education).

So please come along and see us! See the attached programme for details of our meetings during the current season.

For further information, contact Neil Haggath at the above address. (As you can see, I now live away from the area, but I still make it to most of the meetings.) Alternatively, contact our general Secretary, Alex Menarry, whose details are given later in this pack.

CaDAS web site:

www.cadas-astro.org.uk

Wynyard Observatory and Planetarium web site:

www.planetarium.btinternet.co.uk

“Transit” Newsletter

Each month, for ten months of the year, the Society produces a newsletter, “Transit”. This is sent out just before each monthly meeting. If, after paying your annual subscription, you don’t receive your copy by the next meeting, please contact the Editor, Rod Cuff, whose details are given later in this pack.

You can elect to receive your newsletters by post or by e-mail. It saves us money if it’s sent by e-mail, but you need an Acrobat reader.

Any material for inclusion in “Transit” should be sent to Rod by post or e-mail – preferably e-mail. Material received by the first of a month is normally included in that month’s issue.



COMMITTEE

The following are the CaDAS Committee, elected at the AGM of 11 Feb 2011:

Chairman	Barry Hetherington
General Secretary	Alex Menarry
Programme Secretary	Neil M. Haggath FRAS
Treasurer	Sue Barnes
Communications and Information Secretary	Rod Cuff
(N.B. The C&I Secretary is also the Editor of <i>Transit</i>)	
Ordinary members	Dr. Jürgen Schmoll
	Julia Goudge
Webmaster	Don Martin

Points of Contact:

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Rod Cuff: 1 Farndale Drive, Guisborough. TS14 8JD.
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E-mail: info@cadas-astro.org.uk

Don Martin: 1 Mond Cres., Billingham, Cleveland. TS23 1DL.
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MEETINGS 2011-12

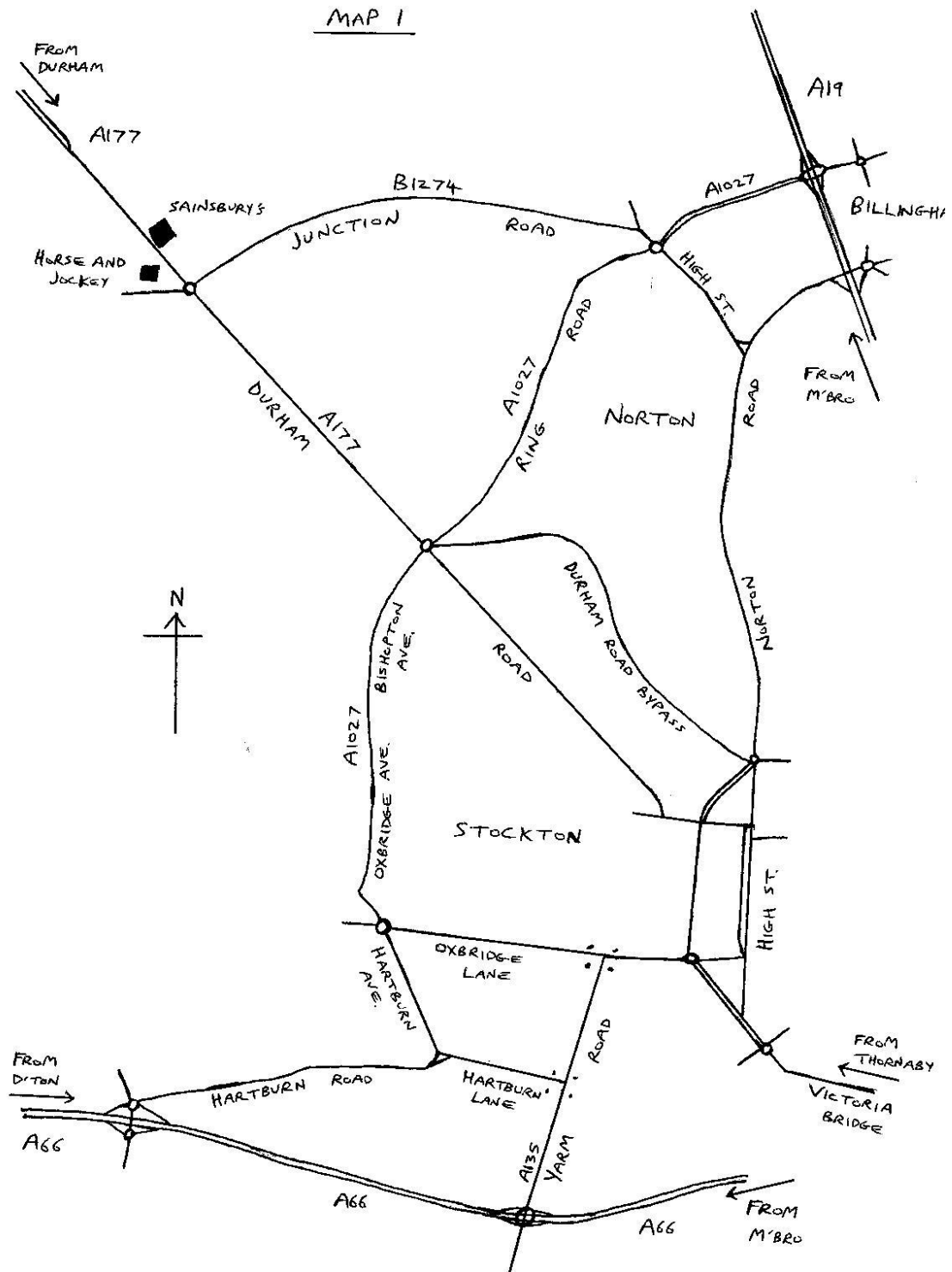
The following are the details of this season's monthly meetings. As usual, all meetings are on Friday evenings, starting at 7.15 p.m. All will be held at Wynyard Planetarium, unless otherwise stated.

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| 9 September 2011 | “Galaxies in Massive Clusters”
by Dr. John Stott of Durham University |
| 13 October | Thomas Wright Trophy quiz competition,
hosted by Durham University A.S. (to be confirmed)
Venue t.b.a. |
| 11 November | “How to Restore a Telescope, or
Thou Shalt not Covet thy Neighbour's Jacuzzi Pump Motor”
by Martin Dawson of York A.S. |
| 9 December | “What We Still Don't Know”
by Dr. John McCue FRAS, Hon. Vice-President of CaDAS |
| 13 January 2012 | “Are We Alone – Extrasolar Planets”
by Dr. Pete Edwards of Durham University |
| 10 February | Members' Night – Volunteers needed! Plus AGM. |
| 9 March | “How the Outer Planets Were NOT Discovered”
by Dr. Colin Steele of Manchester University |
| 13 April | “The Minor Planets”
by Paul Money FRAS FBIS |
| 13 May | “What's In a Name?”
by Neil Haggath FRAS of CaDAS |
| 10 June | Presidential Address: Title t.b.a.
by Jack Youdale FRAS, Honorary President of CaDAS |

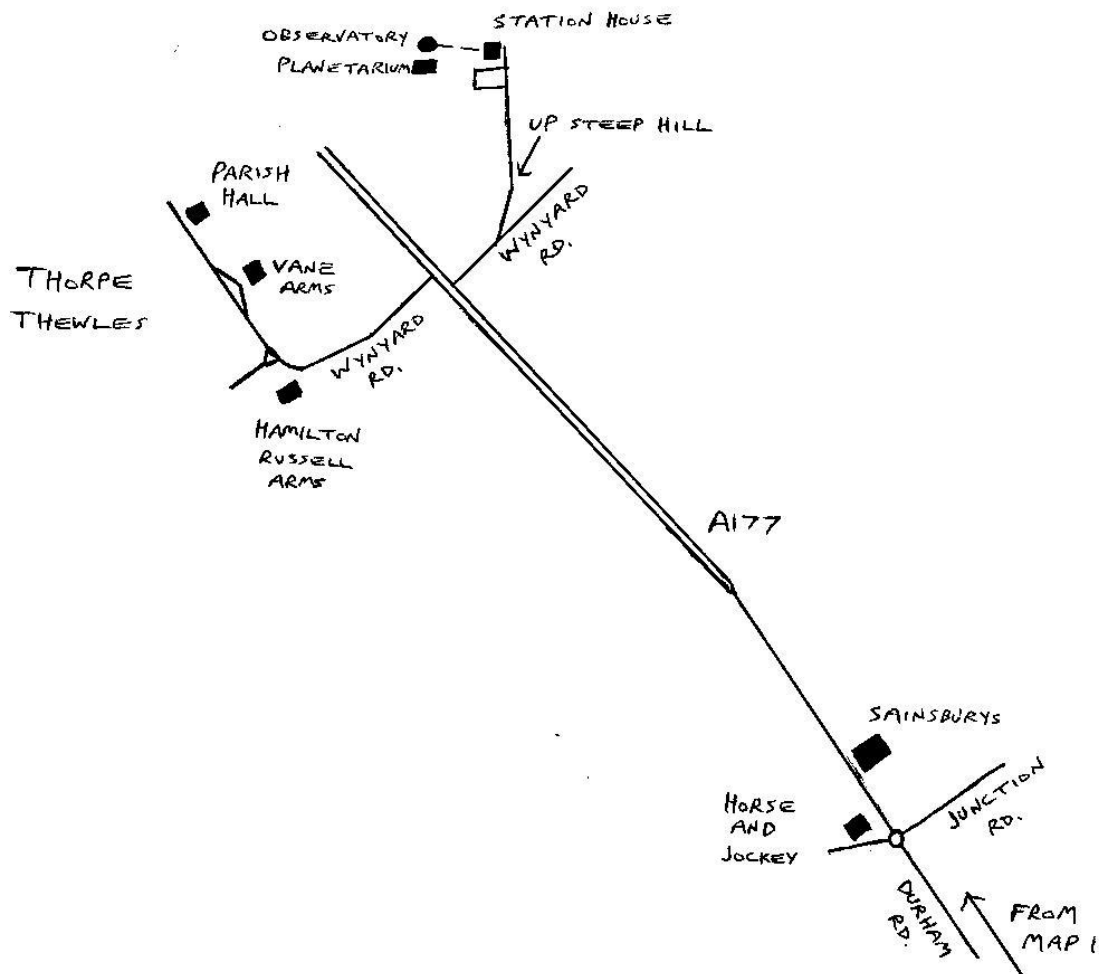
Any queries, please call Neil on 07900 653213, or e-mail meetings-secretary@cadast-astro.org.uk. Please allow a few days for replies, as I'm working away from home during the week.

CaDAS VENUE MAP

Wynyard Observatory and Planetarium: Located in Wynyard Woodland Park, near Thorpe Thewles.
All meetings at Planetarium, unless otherwise stated.



MAP 2



How to get to Thorpe Thewles

From the A19, leave at the Billingham Bottoms turnoff, following the sign for "Norton A1027".

From the A66 (Darlington), leave at the Eaglescliffe turnoff, following the signs for "Eaglescliffe", then "Hartburn".

From the A66 (Thornaby/Middlesbrough), leave at the Yarm Lane turnoff, following the sign for "Stockton (West) A135".

Follow Map 1 from the A19, A66, Stockton Ring Road or Stockton town centre, as far as the Horse and Jockey roundabout on the A177. Then follow Map 2.

Leave the A177 at the staggered crossroads, about 1.5 miles from the Horse and Jockey roundabout. Turn right, then first left, following the sign for "Wynyard Woodland Park".