



Programme Secretary: Neil M. Haggath B.Sc.(Hons), MBCS, CITP, FRAS

74 Queensferry Gardens,
Shelton Lock,
Derby.
DE24 9JS.
Tel. 07900 653213

E-mail: meetings-secretary@cadast-astro.org.uk

SUMMER NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

Dear friends,

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

Once again, I've managed to complete the programme of speakers in time for this newsletter. We have three professional speakers, from the Universities of Durham and Manchester, and several talks by prominent amateurs, including three of our own members, and the welcome return of the incomparable Paul Money.

As many of you will know, I'm still working away from home (away from my adopted home of Derby, that is) as a contractor, and living in two places at once. At the moment, I'm working in Birmingham – even further away from Cleveland! Fortunately, I've still been able to make it to most of the meetings in the past season, and hope to do so again in the coming season – apart from September, when, as always, I'll be at Horncastle Astronomy Weekend.

Until further notice, we'll continue to hold our meetings at the Planetarium – with the exception of October, when the Thomas Wright Trophy contest, hosted by Durham University A.S., will take the place of our usual meeting – see Section 3 below.

If you have any queries about any of our events, please contact me; my details are given above. I have a laptop and mobile dongle at my "weekday address", so I can usually respond to e-mails within a day or two.

Alternatively, contact Alex Menarry, our General Secretary, at:

23 Abbey Road, Darlington, Co. Durham. DL3 7RD.

Tel.: 01325 482597

E-mail: general-secretary@cadast-astro.org.uk

1. Monthly Meetings 2011–12

The following are the dates of this season's monthly meetings, with details of speakers. As usual, all meetings are on Friday evenings, starting at 7.15 p.m, at Wynyard Planetarium, except for October – see Section 3.

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| 9 September 2011 | “Galaxies in Massive Clusters”
by Dr John Stott of Durham University |
| 13 October
(Thursday) | 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, Honorary 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 |
| 11 May | “What's In a Name?”
by Neil Haggath FRAS of CaDAS |
| 8 June | Presidential Address: Title t.b.a.
by Jack Youdale FRAS, Honorary President of CaDAS |

2. Members' Night

A reminder that our annual Members' Night – now combined with the AGM – is now the February meeting, instead of the traditional January.

As usual, volunteers are needed! If anyone has a short talk (20 minutes-ish) that they would like to present, please let me know ASAP.

Anyone else who would like to contribute, by showing some images, telling us about their observations, etc., also please let me know.

3. The Thomas Wright Trophy

This year, the annual Thomas Wright Trophy quiz competition will be hosted by Durham University A.S, on *Thursday* 13 October. The quiz will again be contested by CaDAS, Durham A.S. and Durham University A.S. The university society have been enthusiastic contestants for the last two years, and are keen to take a turn in hosting the contest; the Thursday date is more convenient for more of their members to attend. It will take place at Durham University; the precise venue is to be announced.

The question master will once again be Yours Truly, so the contestants can look forward to some fiendish questions – evil laugh!

The TWT will take the place of our October meeting, which would normally have been the following night.

We need three volunteers for the CaDAS team; anyone interested, please let me know ASAP. Don't worry if you think you're not good enough; it's only a bit of fun – though of course, we do hope to keep the trophy in its Rightful Place.

4. Yorkshire Astromind

This year, the prestigious Yorkshire Astromind competition will be hosted by Mexborough and Swinton A.S., on Saturday 8 October, between 2.00 and about 5.00 p.m. Naturally, all CaDAS members are welcome to come along as spectators. The venue is Swinton Working Men's Club in Swinton, South Yorkshire; if anyone wants to come, the postcode is S64 8AU, and here's the location:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=446129&y=399190&z=110&sv=446129,399190&st=4&ar=y&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf&dn=691&ax=446129&ay=399190&lm=0>

For those who don't know, Astromind is open to all the societies in Yorkshire, though only half a dozen regularly compete. (OK, so we don't quite qualify geographically, but some years ago, I was first invited to take part, by virtue of being a Yorkshireman by birth.) Each society puts up a single contestant; the quiz includes individual "hot seat" and speed rounds, with *Mastermind*-style grillings.

Yours Truly is a six-times champion, but I've now "retired", and for the last eight years, I've chaired the competition and set the questions. I'm doing so again this year.

Unfortunately, our recent double winner, Rob Peeling, has now had to relocate to the South of England because of his job, and feels that he can no longer represent us in the contest. So we need a volunteer to uphold the honour of CaDAS!

5. Scarborough Summer Star Festival

Scarborough and Ryedale A.S. are holding their eleventh Summer Star Festival over the long weekend of Friday 26 to Monday 29 August, with three nights of observing – weather permitting, of course! The site is Adderstone Field in Dalby Forest, near Pickering; it's an excellent dark-sky site, with plenty of room for camping. The cost is £20 per head. Be warned, however; the site is literally a field, so the accommodation is your own tent or caravan.

Advance booking is essential. For full details, and to download a booking form, go to the SARAS web site, <http://www.scarborough-ryedale-as.org.uk/astro/starfest.htm>.

I've been to four of these events, and can tell you that it's an excellent weekend.

6. Wynyard Observatory and Planetarium

For details of planetarium shows and public observing evenings, contact Ed Restall at the Planetarium on 01740 630544, or visit www.wynyard-planetarium.net.

7. Telescopes for Loan

CaDAS owns two telescopes, a 10-inch Dobsonian and an 8-inch Meade Schmidt–Cassegrain, which are available for loan to Society members. A 4-inch Newtonian, owned by the Planetarium, can also be made available for loan.

If you would like to borrow one of the telescopes, please contact Ed at the Planetarium. You will be able to collect it at one of our meetings, and return it at the next. All the telescopes can be transported by car.

It hardly needs stating that the telescopes must be properly looked after, and stored indoors when not in use. The Meade in particular needs to be handled with care.

8. Transit

Rod Cuff continues to do a sterling job as Communications and Information Secretary and Editor of *Transit*. If anyone wishes to contribute any material, please send it to Rod; his contact details are:

1 Farndale Drive, Guisborough. TS14 8JD.
Tel.: 01287 638154. Mobile: 07775 527530
E-mail: info@cadastastro.org.uk

9. The CaDAS Website

Just in case anyone hasn't yet seen it, we now have an excellent society website:

www.cadastastro.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@cadastastro.org.uk.

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

Neil M. Haggath