

Previous Meetings

Contributed by Webmaster

Monday, 01 October 2018

Last Updated Wednesday, 19 December 2018

Date Event

2018 10/12/18Rickbir Bahia (University of Manchester) - The Evolution of Surface Topography on Mars from Channel Networks 12/11/18Tom Scragg (University of Manchester) - Pulsars 08/10/18Chris Reed (Altrincham and District Astronomical Society) - Moons: of the Solar System and Beyond 10/09/18Mark Derbyshire - Asteroids in Northern Europe 09/07/18Annual General Meeting & Nigel Henbest - Cosmic Quest: From Babylon to the Big Bang 11/06/18Dr Jacco van Loon - Spaceship Earth 14/05/18Prof. Michael Garrett - SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) efforts and how we can do better… 09/04/18Andrew Green - Apollo: One Small Step 12/03/18Gemma Reed - The James Webb Telescope 12/02/18Stacey Habbergham - Exploring the Universe with Exploding Stars 08/01/18Annual Quiz - Fun and Games

2017 11/12/17Jeff Forshaw - Universal - A Journey Through the Cosmos 13/11/17Rene Breton - Cosmic Fireworks 09/10/17Michael Oates - "What's in an Image?" 11/09/17Dean Harris - The UK Beagle 2 Lander for Mars 10/07/17Annual General Meeting & Dimitris Stamatellos - Exoplanets. 12/06/17Harvinder Atwal ‐ Balloons, flights and experiments from the Manchester Space Programme. 08/05/17Daniel Jubb - Rockets. 10/04/17Peter Robinson - Space Elevators. 13/03/17Eclipse 2017 - Members Meeting. 13/02/17Colin Steel - A Day On Each Planet. 09/01/17West Didsbury Astronomical Society Quiz.

2016 12/12/16Stacey Habbergham - Exploring the Universe with Exploding Stars. 14/11/16Rhian Jones - Birth of the Solar System ‐ The Story from Chondrite to Meteorites. 10/10/16Clive Dickinson - Unveiling the Cosmic Microwave Background. 12/09/16West Didsbury Opening Season Meeting & Monique Henson - Giants of the Universe. 11/07/16West Didsbury AGM & Steve Warbis Astronomy in Art 13/06/16Prof. A Zijlstra - University of Manchester - Evolution of Planetary Nebulae 09/05/16Mike Shaw - Sundials and How they Work 11/04/16Prof. Mike Seymour - University of Manchester - Update on the Latest from the Large Hadron Collider 14/03/16Prof. Derek Ward-Thompson - University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) - The Herschel Space Telescope and What it taught us about Star Formation 08/02/16Prof. Phillipa Browning - University of Manchester - Space Weather Forecast 11/01/16West Didsbury Astronomical Society - 2016 Quiz 2015 14/12/15Prof. Lucio Piccirillo - University of Manchester - Origins of the Universe 09/11/15Prof. Phil James - Liverpool John Moore University - Supernovae and the Evidence for Dark Energy 12/10/15Lee Sproats- Green Witch Telescopes - Observing Techniques: Tips and Tricks 14/09/15Dr. Joe Zuntz - University of Manchester - Weak Gravitational Lensing 13/07/15Annual General Meeting and Lingjie Kong - Introduction to Cosmology 07/06/15Ben Stappers - Manchester University - Pulsars and Pulsations 11/05/15William Stewart - South Cheshire Astronomical Society - "Shooting while you Sleep - Modern Methods for Detecting and Analysing Meteors" 13/04/15Prof. Donald Kurtz - University of Central Lancashire - Planets and Pulsations 09/03/15David Sellers - Author ‐ William Gascoigne 09/02/15Dr. Patricia Gorgojo-Alonso - Manchester University ‐ Graphine 12/01/15West Didsbury Astronomical Society Quiz 2014 08/12/14Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics Michael Edmunds - Cardiff University‐ The Anthikythera Mechanism 10/11/14Megan Argo - Manchester University - When Galaxies Collide 13/10/14Dr. Katherine Joy - Manchester University - Exploration and Science of the Moon 08/09/14West Didsbury Astronomical Society - Backyard Astronomy 14/07/14Annual General Meeting 09/06/14Andrew Greenwood - Mars 12/05/14Barry Henshall Manchester Astronomical Society - The Birth of Astrophotography 07/04/14Lorelly Wilson - Chemistry for Astronomers 10/03/14Michael Bode ‐ Liverpool John Moores University ‐ The Liverpool Telescope, a Giant Robotic Eye on the Sky 10/02/14Sheila Kanani - Moons in the Solar System 13/01/14Annual Quiz 2013 09/12/13Chris Simpson - Liverpool John Moore University ‐ Search for the most Distant Quasars 11/11/13John Thomson - West Didsbury Astronomical Society President - Charting the Milky Way 14/10/13Maurizio Salaris ‐ Liverpool John Moore University - Dead Stars and the Origin of the Universe 09/09/13Eamonn Kerins ‐ Manchester University ‐ The Hunt for Earth 2 08/07/13AGM & Society President Presentation: Charting the Milky Way 10/06/13Andrew Bate ‐ Chester AS - The Waverton Long Pendulum. Foucault's Pendulum revisited 13/05/13Paola Caselli ‐ Leeds University ‐ From Interstellar Clouds to Planets, the Universal Factory 15/04/13Jeff Forshaw ‐ University of Manchester ‐ The Quantum Universe 11/03/13Althea Wilkinson ‐ University of Manchester ‐ Planck Mission 11/02/13Mark Purver ‐ University of Manchester ‐ Detecting Gravitational Waves Using Pulsars 14/01/13West Didsbury Astronomical Society Annual Quiz 2012 Dec 10Anthony Bristow ‐ Astra Zeneca ‐ Touching from a Distance, Chemical Analysis in Space Nov 12 Prof. Chris Parkes ‐ University of Manchester ‐ What is the Matter with Anti-matter Oct 8 Prof. Lionel Wilson ‐ Lancaster University ‐ Ancient Volcanism on the Moon and Mercury Sep 10 Chris Bowdery ‐ Lancaster University ‐ Higgs Boson ‐ an Update Jul 9Annual General Meeting, and John Brooke - University of Manchester - Magnetism and Space WeatherJun 11Martin Lunn - Cassiopeia A : a 17th century Supernova May 14Postponed to 2013 (Althea Wilkinson ‐ University of Manchester - Planck Mission). Members attended Talk by Lord Martin Rees (Astronomer Royal) at RNCM Apr 16Bruno Maffei ‐ University of Manchester ‐ Present and future instruments for Radio to Far-Infrared

Astronomy Mar 12

William Stewart ‐ South Cheshire Astronomy Society ‐ Dark Matter

Feb 13

Duncan Hall - University of Manchester - Data Processing Challenges for the SKA Jan 9

West Didsbury Astronomical Society Annual Quiz 2011 Dec 12

Paul Ruffle ‐ University of Manchester‐How I Wonder What You Are. The Birth and Life and Death of Stars. Nov 14

Carole Mundell ‐ Liverpool John Moores - Big Bangs and Black Holes Oct 10

Sarah Crowther ‐ University of Manchester - NASA Genesis mission Sep 12 Myfanwy Lloyd ' Planetary Nebulae with Binary Stars' Jul 11

Dr. Ed Daw 'The Hunt for Gravitational Waves Jun 13

Prof. Jeff Forshaw 'Fundamental Physics and the Large Hadron Collider' May 9

Annual General Meeting. Members ‘Show and Tell' Apr 11

Richard Battye 'The Cosmic Microwave Background' Mar 14

Tom Mullins 'Order out of Chaos' Feb 7

Andy Newsam '-Exploring the Dynamic Universe'

Jan 10

West Didsbury Astronomical Society Annual Quiz

2010 Dec 13 Benny Peiser 'Apocalypse NO: Cosmic Hazards and Planetary Protection' Nov 8

Tim O'Brien 'Exploring the invisible universe'

Oct 11

Grant Allen 'Weather on the Planets'

Sep 13 Welcome to the WDAS Society Year & Andrew Greenwood 'Naked Eye Astronomy'

Jul 12

Annual General Meeting. Members ‘Show and Tell'

Jun 14

Chris Wareing - Lost in Space

May 10

Prof. Ian Morison 'A great TIME to be an Astronomer'

Mar 8

Dave Ogden 'Magnetism in the Universe' Apr 12

Jaime Gilmore "The Chronology of Solar System Formation" Feb 8

Fred Lobinger - Particle Physics

Jan 11

West Didsbury Astronomical Society Annual Quiz

2009 Dec 14 Paul Fitzgerald 'History or Hoax ? A lighthearted look at the Apollo Missions' Nov 9

November 9

Sounding Out the SUN

Speaker: Dr. Roger New 7 - 9 pm.

William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Oct 14

October 12

Galaxy Clusters

Speakers: Dr. Scott Kay

7 - 9 pm.

William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Sep 14

September 14

WDAS Welcome and Opticstar

Speakers: Chairman & Opticstar - Peter Karboulonis

7 - 9 pm.

William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Jul 13 July 13 WDAS AGM and Science Experiments

Speakers: AGM - Chairman & Science - John Thomson

7 - 9 pm.

William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Jun 8 June 8 "The Aurora Borealis: Nature's light show"Speaker: Jim Wild

7 - 9 pm.

William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

May 11 May 11 "New Advances in Photography"Speaker: David Ratledge

7 - 9 pm.

William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Apr 20 Apr 20 "Large Aperture Telescopes"Speaker: David Owen, Geoff Regan, Dave Thomson

(From Liverpool Astronomical Society)

7 - 9 pm.

William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Mar 9 March 9 "The Active SUN"Speaker: Dr. Philippa Browning

(From The University of Manchester)

7 - 9 pm.

William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Feb 9 Colin Steele

Sheffield University

Astronomy in FlatlandFeb 9 Astronomy in 2-dimensions!

7-9pm at William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Jan 14

Annual QuizJan. 14th Can you answer the Questions ???

7-9pm at William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

2008

Dec 8 December 8th 'President's Christmas Lecture'Speaker: John Thomson

7 - 9 pm. William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Oct 13

October 13th 'The Higgs-Boson & the origin of mass'Speaker: Chris Bowdery (From Lancaster University)

7 - 9 pm. William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Sep 8Introductory Members' Evening

Jul 14 Annual General Meeting. Members & Show and Tell'

Jun 9 Discussion

May 12 Mike Merrifield & Nottingham University & Galactic Centre

Apr 14 Mark Jones & Open University & Infrared Astronomy

Mar 10 Dr. Grant Allen, University of Manchester, Clouds and Atmospheric Optical Phenomena

Feb 11 David Mottershead, WDAS. Saturn

Jan 14 Annual Quiz

Jan 11 12 13 Harddraw Weekend

2007 Dec 10 'Making an Impact' (Crater formation), Annual Prestige Lecture : John Thomson, WHGS and

WDAS President

Nov 12 Next Meeting: November 12th "Relativistic Jets" Speaker: Prof. Sam Falle (From Leeds University)

7 - 9 pm. William Hulme's Grammar School Lecture Room, First Floor, ZOCHONIS Building

Oct 8 Mars : Dave Ogden

Sep 10 First meeting of the new year! : Jason (WDAS) on The Story of Observation from Twilight to Dawn

Jun 25 WDAS AGM / Show & Tell / Summer Astronomy? :

Note: This is the July Meeting brought forward due to College term dates Jun 11 Meteorites and the Early Solar System : Dr. Jamie Gilmour

Most meteorites are samples of asteroids that have been geologically inactive since the earliest stage of the solar system's evolution, so they preserve a record of the processes that occurred as planets like our Earth formed around the young sun. I May 14 50 years of the Lovell Telescope : Ian Morison

The talk will look at the exciting 50 year history of the Lovell Telescope - now an icon of British science and technology. It will cover the early days when it tracked Russian and American spacecraft, the discovery of the quasars, then the most di

Apr 16 The Night Sky : John Thomson

Note: 9th April = Easter Monday Mar 12 The Life of a Star : Myfanwy Bryce

Feb 19 Webcam Astronomy : David Mottershead

After his successful pre-talk on Photography in Astronomy, David returns to cover the use of webcams. Jan 8 Observing Night / Jason's AstroQuiz :

Observing Night (weather permitting) 2006 Dec 11 Solar Physics : Dr Robert Walsh

An astrophysicist at UCLan, Robert was given the title 'Scientist for the New Century' by the Royal Institution. Nov 13 Webcam Astronomy : David Mottershead

Due to power problems this meeting was cancelled. The talk will be rescheduled - please check the calendar for updates. Oct 9 The Origin of Gamma Ray Bursts : Dr David Bersier

Sep 11 So, You Think You Might Be Interested in Astronomy? : WDAS Committee

2006-07 Introductory meeting Jun 26 4th WDAS AGM :

WDAS AGM / Show & Tell / Summer Astronomy? Jun 12 Mysteries of the Sun : Dr David Tsiklauri

Dr David Tsiklauri attempted to answer the burning question: "Why is the Solar Corona so Hot?" May 8 Libyan Eclipse Experience : Jason Woolley

Jason showed us his pictures of the recent Total Eclipse as seen from Libya. Apr 10 A Recipe for Galaxy Soup: When Galaxies Collide : Richard de Grijs

Richard de Grijs talked on the consequences of smashing galaxies together. Mar 13 James Nasmyth - The Lost Gardens of Fireside : Kevin Kilburn

Kevin gave a talk on the life of this character from Astronomy history Feb 13 The Exploration of Mars : Dr. Jamie Gilmour

Dr. Jamie Gilmour (a senior lecturer from Manchester University's Earth Sciences department) returns to WDAS.

Jan 9 Observing Night/Astroquiz :

Annual astroquiz 2005 Dec 12 White Dwarfs & Rockets : Nigel Bannister

Nov 14 Observing Satellites : William Stewart

Committee Member William Stewart gave a multimedia presentation on how to observe satellites Oct 10 Life in Space? : Dr. Jim Cohen

"Radio astronomers have made strange discoveries, but none stranger than the existence of organic molecules in space. The molecules are formed in the same clouds of gas and dust where the stars are born, so it is hard to imagine that life could be widespread Sep 12 Member's Meeting : Various speakers

Phil B talked about plans and arrangements for the coming year. This was followed by An Astronomy Talk by Jason Woolley which covered the Astronomer's Year, what to see, when and where. Jul AGM AGM : Annual General Meeting

Jun 13 Jodrell Bank's Supernova Project : Megan Argo

May TBCTBC : TBC

Apr TBCTBC : TBC

Mar TBCTBC : TBC

Feb 21 Observing the planets with the Hubble Space Telescope : Ian Griffin

We welcome Dr. Ian Griffin, the new Director of the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. Previously Ian was Head of the Office of Public Outreach for NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and Director of Armagh Planetarium.

Jan 13 Observing Night/Astroquiz :

Annual astroquiz 2004 Dec 12 'Something new at Jodrell Bank' : Ian Morison

We're promised 'Something new at Jodrell Bank' Nov 14 Theories on the Origins of Life : Ian Favell

Oct 10 Project Spaceguard : Nigel Marshall

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This talk covered the establishment of a scale model of the solar system in school playgrounds around the UK. Visit <http://www.spacedout-uk.com> Sep 14A Tale of Two Transits : Andrew Greenwood
 Andrew gave a very interesting talk based on the transits of 1639 and 2004Jun 28Planetary Nebulae : Myfanwy Bryce
 Jun 143rd WDAS AGM :
 AGM followed by a Show and tell session. Refreshments were provided. May 10Our Active Sun : Phillipa Browning
 Apr 19Understanding the most Distant Galaxies : Prof. Clive Tadhunter
 Mar 8The Moon : Simon Warner
 Feb 9Robotic Telescopes : John Baruch
 Jan 12AstroQuiz : Phil Brocklebank
 2003 Dec 8The Dynamic Universe: Astronomy Schools and the Liverpool Telescope : Dr Andy Newsam
 Nov 10Mars (Beagle 2) : Dr Nigel Bannister
 Oct 13Light : Dave Ogden
 Dave gave a very entertaining talk on the subject of 'Light' Sep 15Astrophotography Re-visited : Andrew Greenwood
 Andrew, chair of Macclesfield Astronomical Society, brought us more of his wonderful images.Jun 30How Special is the Earth? : Jamie Gilmour
 (aka the July meeting) Jun 9Active Galactic Nuclei : Prof Joachim Rose
 May 122nd WDAS AGM :
 Our 2nd AGM followed by a Show and Tell sessionApr 14Infra Red Astronomy : Prof Nye Evans
 Mar 10Exploring the Universe from Jodrell Bank : Dr Tim O'Brien
 The latest information on current and future work at Jodrell Feb 10Binocular and Telescope Workshop : Tony Hill
 A fairly informal evening with college and members'ssý telescopes and binoculars and other equipment out on show. Tony Hill, from the Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre also made a return visit to give a presentation and advice on telescopes, binocular Jan 14Astroquiz #2 : WDAS
 After the observing weekend away in Hardraw, a quieter, more social evening was held with our second AstroQuiz 2002
 Dec 9A New View of the Universe : Dr Ian Morison
 Ian brought us up to date with the latest cosmological theory on Dark Energy Nov 11Star Formation and the Hubble Sequence of Galaxies : Dr Phil James
 Phil also brought us information on the Distance Learning Course available through his University Oct 14Messier Object : Dave Ogden
 Sep 9The Sun : Dr Robert Walsh
 Jul 1Rocketry : Megan Argo
 Megan came to talk to us about her team's recent adventures in the National Rocket Championships, which they won in both 2000 and 2001 Jun 10Satellites and their significance for Astronomy : Dr David Clark
 Nobby spoke to us on "Satellites and their significance for Astronomy" May 131st WDAS AGM :
 Apr 8Comets : Dave Ogden
 A presentation on Comets, including recent images of Comet Ikeya-Zhang Mar 11Earth as a Planet : Fred Broadhurst
 Feb 11GCSE Astronomy : Nigel Marshall
 Nigel Marshall spoke about GCSE Astronomy from the Chief Examiner's viewpoint Jan 14AstroQuiz : WDAS
 2001 Dec 10Project Spaceguard - saving people from going the way of the Dinosaurs : Duncan Steel
 Duncan alerted us to the risk to Earth from asteroid impact Nov 12Practical Astrophotography Workshop : Sue Metcalfe and John Thomson
 Oct 8Astrophotography : Andrew Greenwood
 Andrew covered the full gamut of astrophotography, from conventional film to digital photography, and showed the spectacular photos he took of eclipses in Turkey and South Africa Sep 10Choosing and using Telescopes and Binoculars : Tony Hill
 Jul 9Astronomy Software : John Thomson
 Members had the opportunity to look at and use Astronomy software on laptops Jun 11College telescopes : John Thomson
 John Thomson guided us through the setting up and use of the College's telescopes.