

2002



NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY, 15th November 2012
THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF HARINGEY
VOLUME 41 : ISSUE 1 : November 2012
www.ashastro.co.uk

SOCIETY NEWS

MEETING VENUE :
Ashmole School, Southgate, London N14 5RJ.

The day for all meetings is usually the third Thursday of each month. The exceptions are August, when currently we do not hold a meeting, and December, when the Christmas Meet has always traditionally been held during the second week. However, in case of changes – and there have been a few over the last year or so – it is always advisable to double-check the dates below.

**NOTE - as below - the Meeting information is also on the *NEW* website:
www.ashastro.co.uk – updated from May**

Doors open - 7.30pm : Main speaker - 8.00pm : Finish - 10.00pm sharp!
New or updated information is in *italics*

2012

November 15th - Bo Maxwell : “The Future of Mars”

December 13th – Christmas Meet and Guiz VIII

2013

Tentative dates for next year

January 17th
February 21st
March 21st
April 18th
May 16th
June 20th
July 18th
August : summer break
September 19th
October 17th : AGM
November 21st
December 12th : Christmas Do

COVER

As a starter (for 10) to the Christmas Guiz – who is depicted as this wooden effigy? A clue could be the sign?

For the answer – see *Out and About*.

Image : Mat

SOCIETY NEWS



We meet in the Drama Room at Ashmole School, (previously the Curriculum Support Building - still noted as such in the map). This is the low building, (right), just past the Performing Arts Centre.



MEETING PREVIEW :

November 15th : Bo Maxwell : "The Future of Mars"



Bo is the Chairman of the UK branch of The Mars Society. The Society itself started in 1998 in the USA and now has branches around the world, (though the UK was the first outside of the US). Its overall aim is to take a serious scientific and technological look at journeying – and staying – on the Red Planet, and to this end has financed several projects, establishing analogue bases in remote regions of Earth to simulate the conditions future explorers would eventually find on Mars. Bo has spoken to the

Society before on these projects, but the last was almost three years ago, so time for catching up.

MEETING REVIEW :

October 18th : AGM and Small Talk

The Committee elections went through in the usual smooth manner, did not cost \$4 billion in canvassing, and we now have a new Membership Secretary - Alister Innes – seen right taking an opportunity for some observing during a recent expedition to the school playing fields! The rest of the Committee remains unchanged.

The remaining time was taken up talking about Life, the Universe and How-To-Set-Up-Practical-Observing Sessions for the membership. It was suggested that, occasionally, instead of a guest talk we have an observing session at a nearby dark site. The backup plan, in case of non-observable weather is to ensure that there is a pub nearby for a 'virtual observing' session. This will be something to explore for spring and beyond.



Jim Webb - Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S QUARTERS



For a change, here is a selection of other peoples' wisdom, or in this case a list of answers that 16 year olds have given in GCSE exams. I just couldn't resist passing them on.

Q: Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The Sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What is a planet?

A: A body of Earth surrounded by sky.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the Moon, because there is no water on the Moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the Sun joins in this fight.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?

A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?

A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What is the fibula?

A: A small lie.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorised? (e.g., abdomen).

A: The body is consisted into three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O and U.

Q: What is a turbine?

A: Something an Arab wears.

Q: What are steroids?

A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

Q: Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean Section".

A: The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q: What is a terminal illness?

A: When you are sick at the airport.

Q: Use the word "judicious" in a sentence to show you understand its meaning.

A: Hands that judicious can be soft as your face.

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

See you at the next Meeting.

Jim

Out and About

Mat Irvine



If you are still wondering about the cover picture, it is an effigy of Percival Lowell - hopefully you got it via the 'Pluto' hint! He stands outside one of the buildings on the Lowell Observatory site in Flagstaff, Arizona. I had been to the Lowell Observatory

before, but a good number of years ago, so high time for another visit.

The site is perched on a hill, named appropriately 'Mars Hill' after Lowell's initial obsession with 'the canals' of the Red Planet. It overlooks the town of Flagstaff, including a section of Route 66. Flagstaff itself is already at a high altitude, so add Mars Hill to this and the Observatory is at 7250 feet / 2200 meters. The site itself no longer does full-time professional viewing, though is a base for astronomers working at Lowell's outposts at Anderson Mesa about 12 miles south-east and the new Discovery Channel Telescope about 40 miles further on, at the delightfully named area of Happy Jack! New pictures of the main telescopes at Lowell will appear later, but to begin, some other images taken that day!



Signs dotted around the site, (one example above left), point out some of the specific natural inhabitants, including one of the rarer squirrels - the Albert Squirrel. These are mainly ground-foraging squirrels, identified by their tufted ears. You do spot them around every now and then - including this one pictured right.



By chance the quarter Moon was visible in the sky, (left) in line with the Clark Telescope building behind the trees. The Clark had done a lot of work mapping Apollo landing sites.



Centre - a new exhibit from last time the structure from what was originally a 42" reflector. For some time it was housed in a building - below - which is actually mostly below ground. This was thought it would keep it cool - but the opposite was the effect - it got too warm and consequently useless for viewing. The building is now the woodwork shop, handy when so much of the observatory building structure is wood.



The building is unconventional anyway, and someone apparently thought the silver structure and added window - visible far right in the photo - looked like the back of an American trailer (ie caravan) so added a license plate! (Smaller image.)



Meanwhile in the Rotunda - the building that houses many of the exhibits - there is this 'questionnaire' (right) where you can vote - with your dollars! -for what type of object Pluto should now be termed?



So how did your Editor vote???

While on the same visit State-side, the first stop was in New York. With the Shuttle Orbiter Enterprise newly installed on the deck of the USS Intrepid - now called the Intrepid Sea Air and Space Museum, docked in New York Harbor, time for a revisit. Last time I had seen Enterprise, she was still at the Udvar-Hazy Center at Dulles Airport outside Washington DC, now replaced by Discovery. Consequently Enterprise needed a new home and New York won. (See cover of 2002 - volume 40 issue 7, May 2012)

House on the aft deck, under a specially-built inflatable tent, (bottom left image) when visited on 11th October, she was all safe and snug!



But hurricane Sandy hit at the end of the month and although the structure would have withstood the winds, the generators failed and it deflated, slightly damaging Enterprise in the process - see below. Most obvious is a chunk of tail missing, but the nose was apparently also hit by a collapsing lighting stand.



Currently the Museum is closed for repairs.
More at www.intrepidmuseum.org

THE NIGHT SKY : November - December 2012

THE PLANETS

From 29th November through to around 12th December, you will have four planets and the Moon potentially visible in the morning skies. On 29th Mercury, at around 07.00hrs, Venus and Saturn, will be close in a line in the south east, and the Moon and Jupiter very close in the north west. The Moon will then be moving over the next week or so to be close to the first three over 10th to 12th December, gradually becoming a smaller and smaller crescent. After 12th, the Moon disappears - as it is new on 13th - and Jupiter will have set by the time Mercury rises. See also The Night Sky map for this issue.

MERCURY : At inferior conjunction on 17th November and at greatest elongation west on 4th December. This is likely the best viewing opportunity this year, with the bonus of Venus and Saturn also being in the picture. And if that is not all, Spica the brightest star in Virgo is also visible to the west of Saturn. [And see above]

VENUS : Brilliant in the morning skies for those of you that rise early! It is at magnitude -4. Currently close to Saturn, and at their closest on 27th November, both planets rising around 06.00hrs. They are joined by Mercury rising around 07.00hrs on 29th The Moon close by on 11th December. [And see above]

MARS : Faint in the west after sunset. The three-day old crescent Moon is close on 16th November, when around 17.00hrs it will be centrally positioned between Mars to the south west and Pluto to the north east. [And see **PLUTO**] The two-day old Moon also close on 15th December

JUPITER : Rising early evening, brilliant around magnitude -2. Moon very close by to the south on evening of 28th/morning of 29th November. An occultation will be visible from South Africa and southern South America. [And see above]

SATURN : Was in conjunction with the Sun on 25th October, moving into the morning skies. Moon close by 10th December. [And see above]

URANUS : Moon close on 23rd November

NEPTUNE : Moon close on 20th November

PLUTO : As in October, if you have a telescope, a pointer for the 'major ' Minor Planet could be the Moon, only .1degree south on 16th November. An occultation should be visible from Central and South America. Similarly on 14th December the Moon is .2° south, and an occultation potentially visible from central Africa and India. [And see **MARS**]

METEORS

The Leonids peak on November 17th. Geminids peaks on 13th December

THE MOON



New 13th Nov

First Quarter 20th

Full 28th

Last Quarter 6th Dec

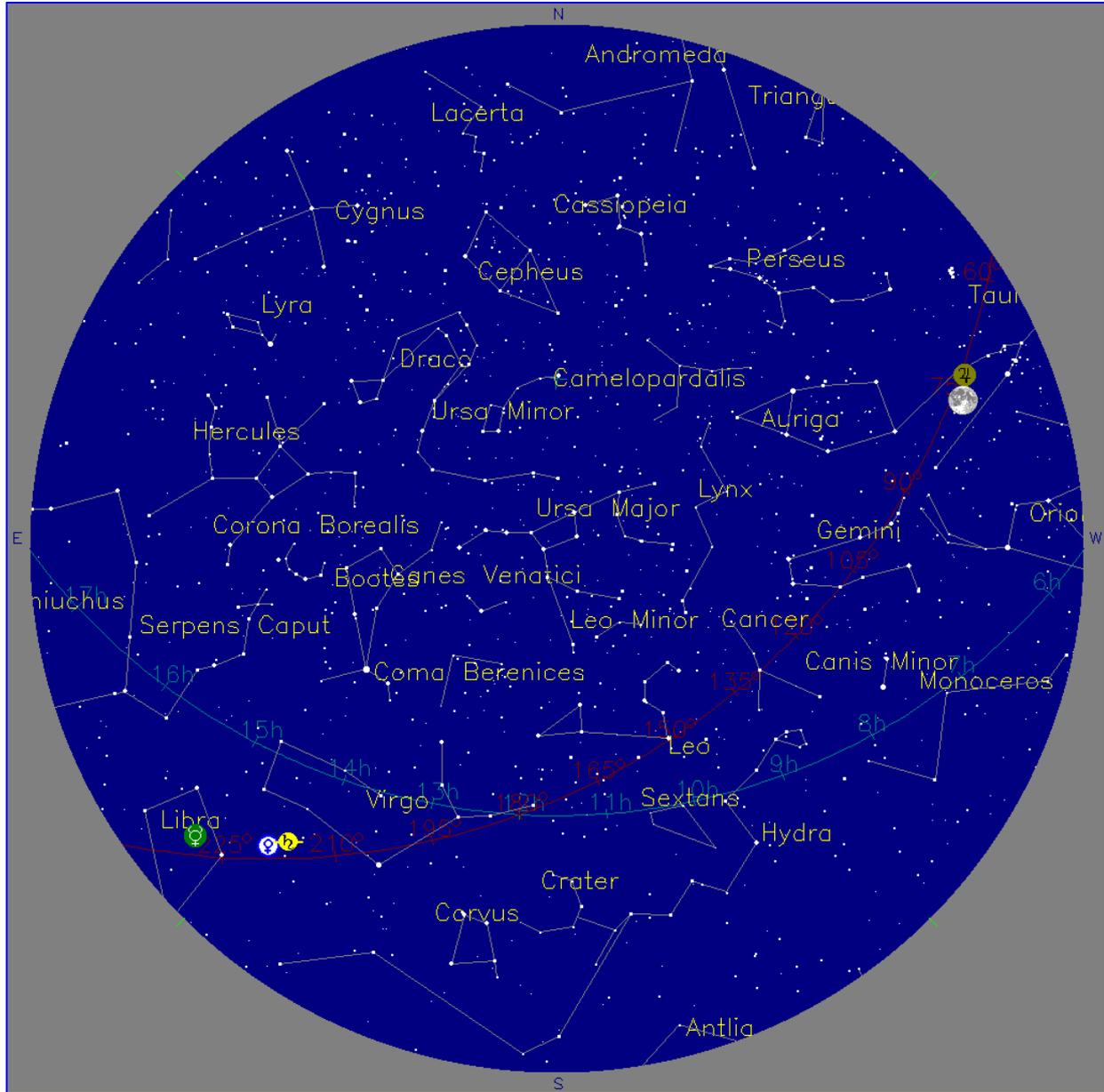
New 13th

There is a penumbral eclipse on 28th November.

THE NIGHT SKY MAP

NOTE this isn't the usual 'first of the month' map. With the four planets and the Moon potentially visible on the morning of 29th November – it is for this date and time.

29th November 2012, 07:00:00 GMT/ UTC



KEY	
 MERCURY	 SATURN
 VENUS	 URANUS
 MARS	 NEPTUNE
 JUPITER	 PLUTO



Astronomical Society of Haringey

Patron: **Sir Arthur C. Clarke, C.B.E., B.Sc., F.R.A.S., F.B.I.S.**

President : **Frederick W. Clarke, F.Ph.S.(Eng), F.B.I.S.**

Vice President : **Walter T. Baker**

ASH COMMITTEE MEMBERS : 2012 – 2013

CHAIRMAN : Jim Webb

020.8441.7421 chairman@ashastro.co.uk [www.glservices.org]

SECRETARY: Charles Towler

01707.322686 secretary@ashastro.co.uk

TREASURER : Gordon Harding 020.8444.2229

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY : Alister Innes 020.8803.2063

EDITOR, P.R.O. and VICE-CHAIRMAN (and current WEBMASTER!) : Mat Irvine

01908.510191 editor@ashastro.co.uk [www.smallspace.demon.co.uk]

GENERAL MEMBER : Mitchell Sandler 020.8958.4185

GENERAL MEMBER : Liz Partridge

JUNIOR MEMBER : Nicholas Lucas

GENERAL MEMBER AT LARGE : Gary Marriott

Contact addresses :

Chairman and general enquiries : 136, Lancaster Road, East Barnet, Herts EN4 8AL

Secretary and Membership : 6 Parkway Close, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6HJ

Treasurer : 57 Tetherdown, London N10 1NH

Editor and PRO : The Forge Cottage, 20 Gold Street, Hanslope, Bucks MK19 7LU

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY 18th October 2012

THE NEW 'SITE - UNDER BETA TEST : www.ashastro.co.uk

Note there are now 'ASH' email addresses – as above

General enquiries to [<info@ashastro.co.uk>](mailto:info@ashastro.co.uk)

[THE ORIGINAL WEB SITE : www.ashastro.org]