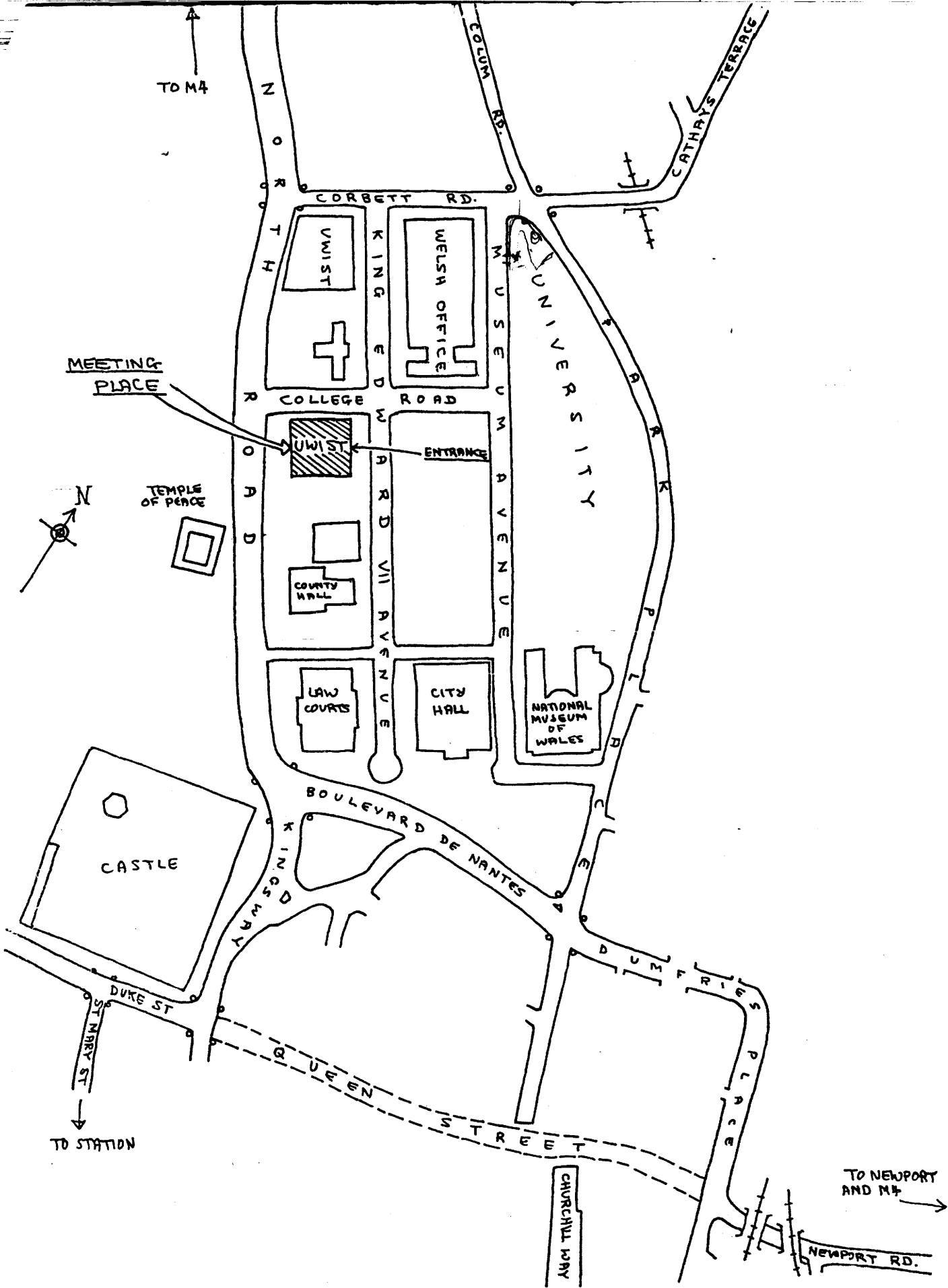


**Cardiff
Astronomical
Society**

**Handbook
1979-80**



INTRODUCTION

It has been felt by the Committee for some time that a handbook, giving details of the Society and its activities through the year would be of value. For the first time we have planned our programme for the whole year, so that it will be readily accessible within one set of covers. We hope that it will provide something of interest for everyone, both for the observer and armchair astronomer alike.

We hope that you will find this publication useful, and we will welcome any suggestions for additions and improvements for future editions.

MEETING PLACE

Since Penylan Observatory will not be available for meetings for the current session at least, the indoor meetings of the Society will be held in ~~Room 112, Main Building (Bute Building), UWIST, King Edward VII Avenue~~ (see map opposite), on alternate Thursdays from September to July. Occasional meetings are held on days other than Thursdays, and you should consult the programme for details. We would like to urge members to try to get to meetings by 7.15 p.m.; in recent years we have tended to be lax in starting meetings promptly, which means the time available to us is made considerably shorter. Also, it can be irritating for those members who are prompt to have to wait around for a long time before proceedings begin.

Rm 230 ~~LAIR~~ BUILDING

CARDIFF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Cardiff has seen a succession of astronomical societies since the end of the war. The predecessors of the current society disbanded for various reasons, and its immediate predecessor, the Cambrian Astronomical Society, finally became moribund by 1970.

At an Extra Mural course held at Dyffryn House in June 1975, the present Chairman (Bob Owens) and Secretary (Dave Powell) were encouraged by the organiser, Dr. G.P. Thomas (formerly of the Extra Mural Department of the University College of Swansea, now at the Department for External Studies, University of Oxford), to revive the Cardiff Society, particularly in view of the existence of large and vigorous societies in our neighbouring cities of Swansea and Bristol. Consequently, they got together with Ron Lane, custodian of Penylan Observatory, and two of his group at the Observatory, Colin Lang and Martin Chick, and arranged an exploratory meeting in July 1975. It immediately became apparent that there would be support for a new society, and so an interim committee, with Ron Lane in the chair, was set up. It set about arranging a programme for the autumn, and by the end of 1975 the membership had reached 50, and a keen, enthusiastic nucleus had become established. Despite pessimism from members of earlier societies, who had seen several rise only to fall again, the present society quickly became well established, and the membership has consistently topped the 100 mark for the past three years.

We are still a fledgling society compared with our long-established neighbours, who have given us a good deal of help and encouragement, but we are gradually becoming more sophisticated, with members obtaining larger telescopes and gaining observational experience. Several members now contribute to the observing sections of such national organisations as the BAA and British Meteor Society, and we have become involved in joint meteor watches with Swansea and Bristol. We are also attempting - so far without too much success - to encourage members to make their own instruments, particularly since we have members very experienced in this field. Towards this end there is a cooperative Society effort under way to construct a six-inch Newtonian reflector, hopefully(!) ready for use during the coming winter.

We try to offer a wide and interesting variety of lectures at our fortnightly meetings so as to cater not only for the practical

observer, but also for the 'armchair' astronomer. Also informal 'observing sessions' are held from time to time in a dark out-of-town location to allow members - especially those who are beginners without their own instruments - to have use of portable telescopes and to get to know their way about the sky. The Society is normally represented at the courses arranged by the Extra Mural Department, University College of Swansea, held alternately at Dyffryn House, St. Nicholas, South Glamorgan, and at Gregynog, near Newtown, Powys, as well as at the annual BAA course on observational astronomy held at Winchester. Social events are also held, sometimes in conjunction with our neighbouring societies.

Until the end of 1978 our Society had its headquarters at Penylan Observatory, owned by Cardiff City Council and equipped with a 12½" Newtonian reflector. This telescope is a rare example of a Browning reflector, made in the nineteenth century, and modified by Calver, who added the drive. It is thus an instrument of high quality as well as of historical importance. Sadly, the observatory compound has been so badly vandalised that it has been necessary to remove parts of the telescope for safety, and also to move our headquarters. Cardiff City Council have repeatedly promised to make good the damage caused by the vandals over the past two years, but these promises have so far had about as much substance as the lunar atmosphere.

Through the good offices of our President, Professor Disney, we will be able to have use of the sixteen inch reflector belonging to University College, Cardiff, and it will be available after the end of the fortnightly meetings. It is used essentially as a training telescope by the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy to prepare students for working with bigger instruments abroad. The Society owns a few small portable telescopes for use by members, and these can be had on loan from the Director of Observations. There is also a small, but growing library, and books are available for loan at each meeting.

COMMITTEE 1979-80

PRESIDENT:

Professor M. Disney,
Professor of Observational Astronomy,
Department of Mathematics and Astronomy,
University College,
Cardiff.

VICE PRESIDENT:

R.C. Lane (Ron),
Custodian of Penylan Observatory,
53 Romilly Road,
Canton,
Cardiff.

Instrument - $2\frac{1}{2}$ " refractor.

Interests - Cosmology; deep sky objects.

CHAIRMAN:

R.M. Owens, B.Sc. Ph.D. (Bob),
Assistant Keeper of Geology,
National Museum of Wales,
7 Herbert Terrace,
Penarth,
South Glamorgan.

Telephone - Cardiff 397951, ext. 213 (business)

Instruments - 6" Newtonian reflector,
6 x 30 binoculars.

Interests - Solar System; photography.

VICE CHAIRMAN:

P.W. Jones (Phil),
Telephone/electrical engineer,
8 Pyle Road,
Ely,
Cardiff.

Telephone - Cardiff 595008 (home).

Instrument - $8\frac{3}{4}$ " Newtonian reflector.

Interests - Planetary and lunar observation;
photography.

SECRETARY:

D.W.S. Powell (Dave),
Warehouse Manager,
1 Tal-y-bont Road,
Ely,
Cardiff.

Telephone - Cardiff 551704 (home).
Cardiff 564822 (business).

Instruments - 6" Newtonian reflector;
20 x 70 and 7 x 50 binoculars.

Interests - Variable stars, nova patrols, meteors.

TREASURER:

N.L. Jenkins (Norman),
BBC Engineer,
34 St. Margarets Road,
Whitchurch,
Cardiff,
CF4 7AB.

Telephone - Cardiff 68335 (home).

Instruments - 7 x 50 binoculars.

Interests - Astronomical instruments and their
construction; deep sky objects;
planetary observation.

ASSISTANT TREASURER:

Mrs. P. Chick (Pam),
Data Controller,
28 Clos Llangefni,
Yorkdale Garden Village,
Beddau, near Pontypridd.

Telephone - Newtown Llantwit 206594 (home).
Cardiff 396131 ext 41 (business).

Instruments - 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Newtonian reflector;
3" refractor.

Interests - Planetary and solar observation;
spectroscopy.

EDITOR:

M. Painter (Mike),
BBC Cameraman,
59 New Road,
Rumney,
Cardiff.

Telephone - Cardiff 77893 (home).

Instruments - 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Newtonian reflector.

Interests - Double stars; solar observation.

DIRECTOR OF
OBSERVATIONS:

M.E.J. Chick (Martin),
Photographer,
28 Clos Llangefni,
Yorkdale Garden Village,
Beddau, Near Pontypridd.

Telephone - Cardiff 23170 or 394986 (business).
Newtown Llantwit 206594 (home)

Instruments - ^{Code 935} 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Newtonian reflector.
3" refractor.

Interests - Planetary observation; photography.

LIBRARIAN:

M. Street (Mel),
Painter and decorator,
13 Glenwood,
Llanedeyrn,
Cardiff.

731142

Telephone - Cardiff 761142 (home).

Instruments - 60 mm refractor; 10 x 50 binoculars.

Interests - Planets, comets, space probes.

PUBLICITY OFFICER:

R. Hughes (Roger),
Tax Officer,
17 Heol Ap Pryce,
Yorkdale Garden Village,
Beddau, near Pontypridd.

Telephone - Newtown Llantwit 205194 (home).
Pontypridd 405111, ext 14 (business).

Instruments - 6" Newtonian reflector.

Interests - General.

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE:

P. Walton (Philip),
6 Oakland Avenue,
Cyncoed,
Cardiff.

LIBRARY

The Living Universe	James D. Hebwyrd
Astronomical Spectroscopy	A.D. Thackeray
Radio Studies of the Universe	R.D. Davies & H.P. Palmer
Discovering the Universe	Bernard & Joyce Lovell
Bombarded Earth	Rene Gallant
View from Orbit L1	Antony Avenel
Astronauts Book	Space Pioneers
The Revolving Heavens	Reginald L. Waterfield
Introducing the Universe	James C. Hickley
Into Space	P.E. Cleator
The UFO Enigma	Jaques & Janine Vallee
The Search for Life in other Worlds	Cpt. D.C. Holmes
The Amateur Astronomer and his Telescope	Gunter D. Roth
The Stars and their Legends	Roy Worrill
Astronomy in Colour	Peter Lancaster Brown
The Violent Universe	Nigel Calder
Is Anyone out There?	Jack Stoneley
The Modern Universe	Raymond A. Littleton
Reach for the Moon	Walter Hendrickson
Black Holes	John Taylor
Robot Explorers	Ken Gatland
The Comet Kohoutek	Joseph Goodavage
Guide to the Stars	Patrick Moore
Guide to the Planets	Patrick Moore
Stars at a Glance	
Astronomy	A.R. Hinks
A - Z of Astronomy	Patrick Moore
Restless Earth	Nigel Calder
Astronomy - Teach Yourself	David S. Evans
Whitaker's Almanack 1967	
Flying Saucers from Outer space	Holt
Practical Amateur Astronomy	Patrick Moore
Handbook for Planet Observers	Gunter D. Roth
The Riddle of the Universe	W.M. Smart
Radio Astronomy	Frank W. Hyde
Man and the Planets	R.S. Richardson
Norton's Star Atlas	
Man Probes the Universe	Colin A. Ronan
Popular Star Atlas	1950
The Boys' Book of Space	Patrick Moore
Exploring the Universe	Roy Worrill
Exploring the Planets	Ian Nicolson
The Earth	I.O. Evans
Yearbook of Astronomy 1975	Patrick Moore
Yearbook of Astronomy 1977	Patrick Moore
Yearbook of Astronomy 1979	Patrick Moore
Yearbook of Astronomy 1978	Patrick Moore

LIBRARY (continued)

The Universe	Isaac Asimov
Mathematicians Delight	W.W. Sawyer
Astronomy for Everyone	G.O. Abell
About Telescopes - Project Book 118	
The Young Space Traveller - Project Book 168	
Signposts to the Stars	
The Night Sky 1961	
The Night Sky 1963	
The Night Sky 1976	
The Comet	Douglas Hill
The London Planetarium	
Stars and Space	
Guide to the Old Royal Observatory	
CAS Calendar 1977	
CAS Calendar 1978	
CAS Calendar 1979	
A Key to Worlds Beyond	Arthur Smith
The Invasion of the Moon	Peter Ryan
Constellations - How to find them	
Guide to the Moon	Patrick Moore
Comets, Meteorites and Men	Peter Lancaster Brown
Deep Sky Objects	Jack Newton
Stars and Planet Spotting	Peter Lancaster Brown
Celestial Objects for the Common Telescope:	
Vol.1. The Solar System	Rev. T.W. Webb
The New Astronomy and Space Science Reader	
Make Your Own Telescope	Reg Spry
The First Three Minutes	Steven Weinburg

PUBLICATIONS

Cardiff Astronomical Society produces a Newsletter, giving details of forthcoming events, reports of observations, book reviews, etc., which is published four or five times per year. This is issued free to members.

In conjunction with Swansea Astronomical Society we publish an annual Astronomical Calendar, a booklet giving details of phenomena throughout the year, including diagrams for locating both naked eye and telescopic planets. This is put on sale at the end of the year for about 50p.

Additionally, information sheets are distributed from time to time with details of positions of bright comets, for example.

PROGRAMME 1979-1980

This is the programme as finalised at the time of writing (August 1979). Members will be advised of any changes at meetings or via the Newsletter. Please note that all meetings are held on Thursdays with the exception of that of October 5th, which will be on a FRIDAY.

*Denotes a visiting speaker.

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| 6th September | Inaugural meeting for the year, when members will be enrolled. Short talk on September night sky, by Mr. M. Chick, followed by open forum. |
| 20th September* | Systematic observation of transient lunar phenomena, by Mr. J. Pedler, Bristol Astronomical Society. |
| 5th October*
(FRIDAY) | Exploding galaxies, by Miss Heather Couper, Lecturer at Greenwich Planetarium, National Maritime Museum. |
| 18th October | Origins of the Solar System, by Mr. M. Greene, CAS. |
| 1st November* | Building a 4-inch Maksutov telescope, by Dr. F. Jenkins, Swansea Astronomical Society. |
| 15th November* | Space colonisation, by Professor M. Disney, University College Cardiff, Hon. President, CAS. |
| 29th November* | An aspect of extra galactic astronomy (title to be announced), by Dr. Simon Mitton, Cambridge Institute of Astronomy. |
| 13th December | Artificial satellites and space flight, by Mr. N. Jenkins, CAS. |

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| 10th January | X-Ray astronomy, by Mr. W. Sutherland, CAS. |
| 24th January* | Do we even understand how the Sun works?
by Professor Ian Roxburgh, University of London. |
| 7th February | Planetary geology, by Dr. R.M. Owens, CAS. |
| 21st February* | Physical structure of the Universe,
by Dr. M. Edmunds, University College Cardiff. |

PROGRAMME 1979-1980 (continued)

6th March	White dwarfs to black holes, by Mr. W. Sutherland, CAS.
20th March*	Building Trelleck Observatory, by Mr. B. Williams, Trelleck, near Usk, Gwent.
3rd April	Annual General Meeting.
17th April	Evolution of stars off the main sequence, by Mr. G. Dolan, CAS.
1st May*	Lunar photography, by Commander H.R. Hatfield, Secretary, British Astronomical Association.
15th May	Project evening.
29th May	Practical astronomical photography, by Mr. M. Chick, CAS.
12th June	VIEWS THROUGH A GRAVITATIONAL LENS Three short talks by CAS members (titles to be announced later). DR SEHUSTER UCW.
26th June	Observing the Sun by Mr. M. Painter, CAS.
10th July	Social evening.

In addition, there will be informal observing sessions, joint meteor watches with Swansea and Bristol, an outing to a place of astronomical interest in June or July, and various social events will be arranged. There will also be a jumble sale on November 10th, and any members with any jumble are asked to bring it along; the object is to raise funds for the society.

It is also planned to hold a convention of Astronomical societies in South Wales and Southwest England in Bristol during March. Details will follow in the Newsletters.