



As you all are aware by now, 2009 is the **International Year of Astronomy**, so please forward what your society is/has been doing to celebrate this event. Send contributions to the email address below or through the SAGAS website.

Newsletter09@sagasonline.org.uk

NEIL BONE 1959-2009

As most of you all probably know by now, *Astronomy Now*, *South Downs AS* and the *BAA* lost one of its brightest stars in late April. Neil had been unwell for a couple of years and finally succumbed to his illness at the maximum of the April Lyrids, very poignant for the Director of the *BAA Meteor Section*. All who knew Neil have lost a good friend, and our sincere thoughts go to his wife Gina and their two children.

He was, however, able to receive the certificate for *Asteroid 7102* which has been named *Neilbone* in his honour.

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INTECH TELESCOPE AMNESTY

The article with the above title, in the last issue of *SAGAS OFFLINE*, was incorrectly credited to Phil Alner of *Cody AS*. Instead it should have been to Gordon Lloyd also of *Cody AS*. Apologies to Gordon for the oversight!

MOONWATCH WEEK II 1st, 2nd & 3rd May 2009 Worthing Astronomers

Fresh from the success of the previous attempt, *Worthing Astronomers* held another sidewalk viewing over the *May Bank Holiday* weekend. The weather on Friday 1st May was fine all day, but the clouds, on cue, rolled in during the late afternoon and early evening which ended any chance of viewing. The nights of Saturday and Sunday were an improvement and once again approximately twenty – thirty people attended during each evening. A small flyer had been printed out in advance, stating who we were and how to join and several people did indeed join up during the following weeks.

Before this, on 25th April, *Worthing Astronomers* endeavoured to find the young Moon, approximately just over sixteen hours old. The evening for once was clear and the young crescent Moon was successfully observed.

We also celebrated the *Summer Solstice* with a BBQ held in the back garden of two members. True to form the weather decided to go into 'not-summer' mode, but fortunately the early evening was hospitable enough to sit outdoors for a while. It was only at dusk when the rain fell!

FOREDOWN TOWER ASTRONOMERS Sunday 31st May 2009 Animals In The Sky

Foredown Tower Astronomers held a free talk at their headquarters of *Foredown Tower* in Hove entitled '*Animals In The Sky: A Tour Of The Celestial Zoo*' on the last Sunday in May.

This was a tour of the constellations of the night sky, past and present, that were animal or fish and of course sea-serpent and dragon! It was enjoyable and a very unusual presentation. It proved to be popular as there were no spare seats left on what was a hot and fine afternoon! Members of local SAGAS societies, *Crawley*, *HAG* and *Worthing Astronomers* were also in attendance.

Barry Lorimar of *Foredown Tower Astronomers* has built this rather splendid Dalek, picture below. This would make a magnificent exhibition model I am sure! What will it be next Barry, the *Tardis*?



*Dalek made by Barry Lorimar
Foredown Tower Astronomers
Pictured here with member David Inman*

Barry has kindly offered the Dalek to any SAGAS society who would like it to form part of their IYA exhibition. Please contact SAGAS secretary John Axtell for how to go about this, contact details on the SAGAS website.

VECTIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Isle of Wight

Vectis AS on the Isle of Wight are holding "Observatory Training" evenings on a regular basis on Thursdays. This is a splendid idea to encourage members to use a society observatory and of course enable new members who would like to know how to use an observatory to come along at a time when they would not be interrupting more important observations. Hopefully it would encourage some members to even build their own. Please let us know how successful your evenings are Vectis.

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SAGAS MEETING South Downs Planetarium, Chichester 18th April 2009 14.15hrs

The spring quarterly meeting of SAGAS took place on 18th April 2009 with a well-attended audience. This was the last meeting to take place in the planetarium itself, as from October the new adjoining lecture room will be ready for our use.

Nineteen societies attended and among the subjects covered was an account of the very successful *Isle Of Wight Star Party*, the report of which was just in time to make it into the last issue of *SAGASOFFLINE* followed by the usual business that takes place at a SAGAS meeting.

After the break the guest speaker, introduced by planetarium Director Dr John Mason, was Dr Keith

Strong, NASA who gave an excellent talk to a now packed planetarium, on "The Sun's Role In Climatic Change"



*Dr John Mason (right) Introduces Dr Keith Strong, NASA (left)
Photo courtesy Jan Young*

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SAGAS SUMMER MEETING 4TH July 2009 ROYAL MARITIME CLUB QUEEN STREET PORTSMOUTH PO1 3HS

HAG and Nightlife are providing the venue for the 2009 SAGAS summer meeting. A poster for this event can be found at the end of the newsletter and more details are on the SAGAS home page, link below.

<http://www.sagasonline.org.uk/Summer2009Event.htm>

There are some super speakers which include the magnificent Allan Chapman and Dr John Mason.

Members are assured of a good day out, the venue is near to the Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station, so for once let the train take the strain out of travelling.

SAGAS will be having a stand at the event so come and say hello to the committee members and please we want to know what YOU want from SAGAS.

There is still time to book your tickets!

SAGAS SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Subscriptions are due for the 2009-2010 session so any society who are still owing their subs please forward it to our Treasurer, Brian Halls, as soon as possible. Brian will be at the Portsmouth meeting and will be very glad to take your cheques or your cash!

SAGAS BOARDS & GLOBE

A reminder to all societies that there are the display boards available to borrow as mentioned in the last edition of the newsletter. They have now been joined by a *Moon Globe* for SAGAS society use. Please contact a member of the SAGAS committee if your society wants to take advantage of these items.

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REGISTERED CHARITY INFORMATION A REQUEST John Axtell

Is your society a *Registered Charity Society*? If so, John Axtell (SAGAS secretary) would love to hear from you. Or even better, so it can be shared by other societies of SAGAS, submit an article to the newsletter.

The comments need to cover the pros and cons of turning a society into a registered charity, what this offers.

Have any SAGAS society considered it in the past, or considered it and then decided against doing it? Your comments too, would be welcome.

Submissions to the secretary or the newsletter please.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4th July 2009 SAGAS summer meeting hosted by *Nitelife* and will be in Portsmouth, details on the SAGAS website.

24th July – 28th August 2009 *Sussex Records Office*, Chichester. Exhibition dedicated to Thomas Harriot

www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/content/libraries-and-archives/record-office/whats-new-at-the-record-office.en

26th July Syon Park, London

As part of the IYA celebrations Syon Park are holding an event to mark Thomas Harriot's observations, details can be found on the following link <http://www.telescope400.org.uk/>

Friday 11th – Sunday 13th September 2009
Herstmonceux Astronomy Fair, Herstmonceux Science Centre with camping facilities for the hardy. SAGAS will have the rolling roadshow stand on display.

Saturday 17th October 2009 14.15hrs *South Downs Planetarium*, Chichester. Ordinary SAGAS meeting.

SPEAKERS

The SAGAS speakers list is evolving and has now increased in size. At the time of writing it is still being worked on, but will be available sometime over the summer months. Those of you who have already emailed, will automatically get an updated copy upon completion; if anyone else wants to be included please don't hesitate to email Jan on the address below, as with all further recommendations.

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'SAGAS OFFLINE' NEWSLETTER

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

Please send in reports on what **YOUR** society is doing to mark the *International Year of Astronomy*, any other unrelated to IYA events and also what if anything, societies did to mark the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on 20th July.

Please submit all contributions by 1st October 2009
I wish you all Clear Skies
Until the next issue.

Jan Young
Editor SAGAS Offline

Newsletter09@sagasonline.org.uk
or from the direct link on the SAGAS website
www.sagasonline.org.uk

