

The 2011 BAA Winchester weekend



Group photo at Winchester 2011 by Hazel McGee & Roger Dymock



Dr Matthew Malek with joint course organiser Ann Davies.

It's time to think again about booking for the BAA Winchester weekend at Sparsholt College, Hampshire. If you haven't been before, this is one of the most popular events in the BAA calendar and is not to be missed.

This year's programme included Ian Sharp talking on astro-imaging, Dr Stuart Eves on 'Small satellites from Surrey', and Nick James and Peter Meadows on the BAA robotic telescope project. Dr Matthew Malek gave a superb Alfred Curtis Lecture on neutrino astronomy and cosmic rays, and the final talk was an unexpected bonus: Anthony Wesley

from Australia, who was on a short visit to the UK, told us about his now world-famous observations of impacts on Jupiter. It was a real coup for the BAA audience to hear first-hand from Anthony about his experiences.

On Saturday afternoon the Lunar Section held a well-attended Section meeting at which Dr David Rothery was the main speaker. At the members' session on Sunday afternoon we heard the latest news from Bob Mizon about the CfDS' ongoing fight for dark skies, and several members showed us their latest observations and equipment.

We were fortunate to enjoy clear skies on Friday evening and several members took advantage of this to do some observing. As in previous years we also enjoyed the generous helpings of wonderful food provided by the catering staff at the college.

I hope this brief review of this year's programme will encourage you to consider booking for the 2012 weekend. The programme and booking form is included with this issue of the *Journal*. Come to Winchester 2012 to meet old friends, make new ones, listen to excellent talks, and enjoy the bar, good food and comfortable rooms. And in case we are lucky enough to have clear skies, do remember to bring your telescopes, warm clothing and binoculars.

Ann Davies



Dr Stuart Eves, from Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd., was a popular speaker in 2011 and returns to speak to us again next year.

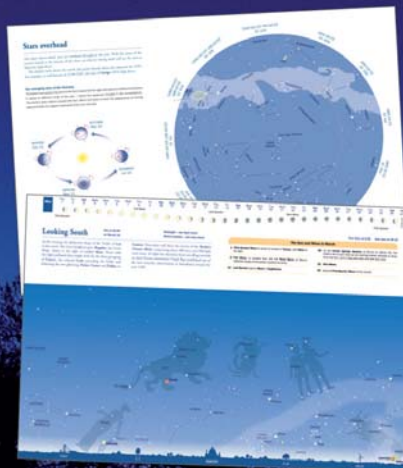
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Join us at Sparsholt College for the 2012 BAA Winchester Weekend



Next year's Winchester weekend will be held from 30th March to 1st April at the usual venue, Sparsholt College, a few miles outside Winchester in pleasant rural surroundings that are ideal for observing. Ticket prices are only slightly increased on this year (£165 for full board over the weekend) and places are likely to be in strong demand so book early. You can use the booking form enclosed with this issue of the Journal or you can register online at www.britastro.org/Winchester2012.



Programme includes

Prof Boris Gaensicke	Observing Variable Stars
Martin Lunn	Dating the Supernova known as Cassiopeia A
Dr Stuart Eves	Exploring the Solar System by Satellite
Dr John Mason	Meteor Observing in the 21st Century
Robin Leadbeater	Amateur Spectroscopy
Bob Mizon	LPFAQ

The Alfred Curtis Memorial Lecture

Prof Paul Crowther Monster Stars

Plus - on Saturday afternoon

Saturn Section meeting

Main speaker - Dr Leigh Fletcher

Trade stands will include Astronomia, Aurora Books, CfDS and BAA Sales

Call the BAA office now to book your place:

020 7734 4145



Photos by Hazel McGee