

Abingdon Astronomical Society

WELCOME



M45 (The Pleiades), an open cluster in the constellation of Taurus, is an impressive sight in the northern sky. The image shows the bluish nebulosity which is difficult to pick out in a light-polluted sky. Current observations suggest this nebulosity is not associated with the birth of these young stars, but is rather a cloud of gas which is being illuminated by the Pleiades as they pass through it. Imaged by Oxford-based Abingdon AS member Paul McGale on 11th, 12th, 18th, & 24th Nov. 2004 00:00 UT. Takahashi 'Sky90' 90 mm f/5.4 refractor telescope, SX SXV-H9 CCD camera with 0.8 reducer, Astronomic LRGB filters and IDAS LPS filter.

Welcome to Abingdon Astronomical Society (AAS). Whether you are a new member, have recently attended one of our meetings, or visited our web-site, this 'welcome pack' is meant to give you a little more information about our society.

- WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY ARE WE
- WHEN AND WHERE DO WE MEET
- BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP
- FORTHCOMING EVENTS
- MEMBERSHIP FEES
- SOME USEFUL CONTACTS



Fig. 56.—Tycho Brahe in his Observatory.

WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY ARE WE?

The Society aims to promote public interest in **astronomy**¹ and the related sciences.

We cover an area encompassing southern and western Oxfordshire, and operate a varied programme of meetings and observing evenings throughout the year (see programme for the current year).

The Society also aims to cater for all levels of experience, from absolute beginners to the more experienced astronomers.

So whether you have only ever gazed in wonder at the night sky and want to understand more about our universe, or whether you are already a regular observer with a passion for all things 'astronomical' then we hope you will benefit from joining us.

¹ 1. **Astronomy** - the scientific study of celestial objects, of space, and of the physical universe as a whole. [from Greek *astronomia* 'star-arranging (matters)'] Oxford English Dictionary.

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PROGRAMME 2010 / 2011

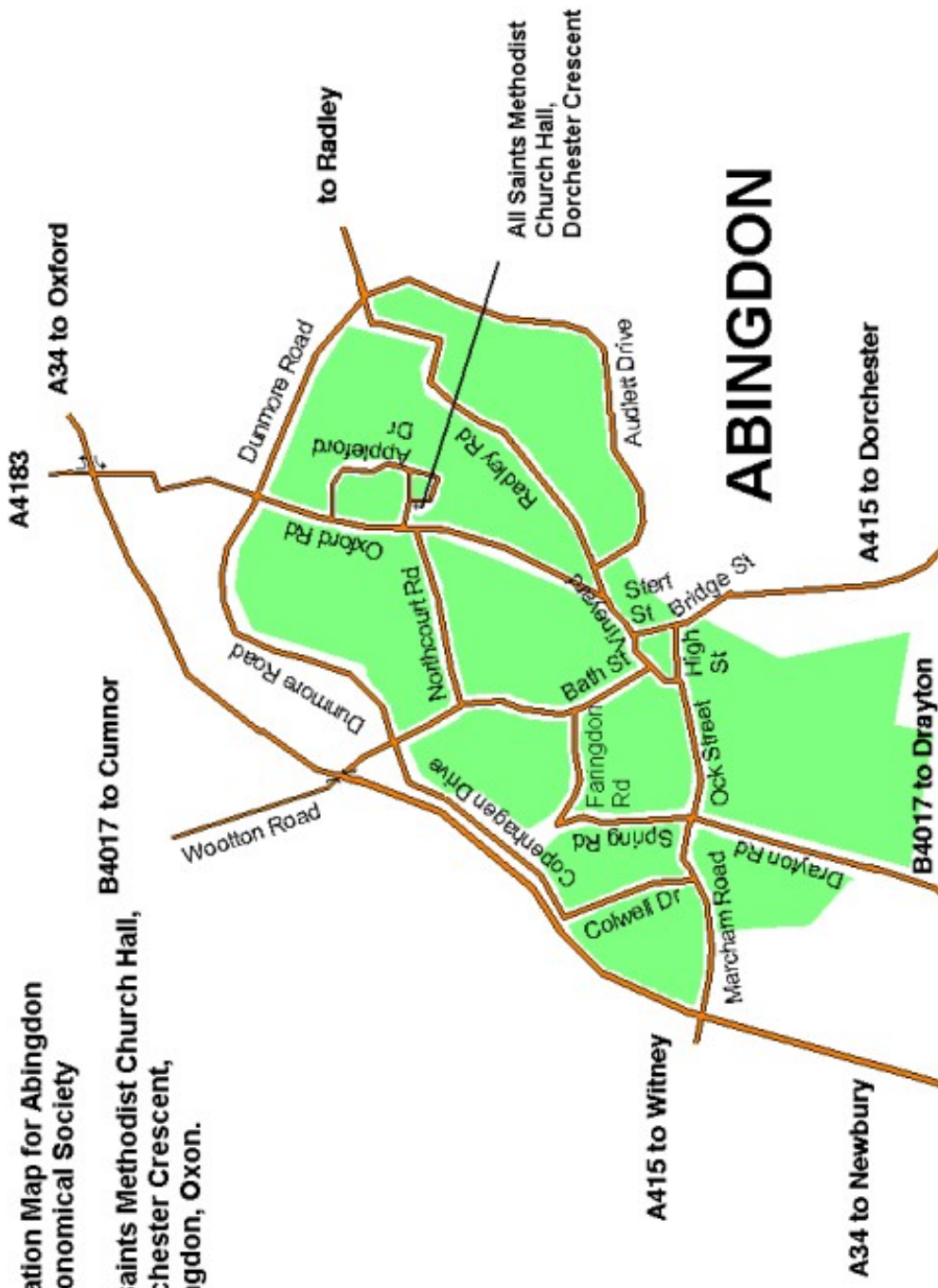
SEP 13th	Talk by Dr Robert C Smith (University of Sussex), 'Stars that go bang in the night'
SEP 20th	Beginners Meeting
OCT 4th to 6th (FCN)⁺	<i>Observing evening at Britwell Salome</i>
OCT 11th	Talk by Dr Barry Kellett (RAL Space Science & Technology Dept.), 'SMART-1 Europe's 1st Mission to the Moon!'
OCT 18th	Beginners Meeting
NOV 1st to 3rd (FCN)⁺	<i>Observing evening at Uffington</i>
NOV 8th	Talk by Dr Frazer Pearce (University of Nottingham), 'Exoplanets'
NOV 15th	Beginners Meeting
NOV 29th to DEC 1st (FCN)⁺	<i>Observing evening at Frilford Heath golf driving range</i>
DEC 6th	Beginners Meeting
DEC 13th	Stan Cocking Memorial Lecture: by Dr Arfon Smith (University of Oxford), 'Galaxy Zoo'
JAN 10th	Talk by Ian King (Ian King Imaging), 'An Introduction to Astrophotography'
JAN 17th	Beginners Meeting
JAN 31st to FEB 2nd (FCN)⁺	<i>Observing evening at Britwell Salome</i>
FEB 14th	Talk by Dr John Hardwick (Cobham), 'Rainbows, Glories, etc.'
FEB 21st	Beginners Meeting
FEB 28th to MAR 2nd (FCN)⁺	<i>Observing evening at Uffington (8.30 pm start)</i>
MAR 14th	Talk by David Boyd (Newbury AAS), 'Professional/Amateur Astronomy'
MAR 21st	Beginners Meeting
APR 11th	Talk by Prof Richard Harrison (Chief Scientist, Space Science and Technology Dept., RAL), 'A Golden Age of UK Space-based Solar Observing'
APR 18th	Beginners Meeting
MAY 9th	AGM
MAY 16th	Beginners Meeting
JUN 13th	Talk by Dr Stephen Johnston (Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford), 'The Astrolabe, East and West'
JUN 20th	Beginners Meeting

⁺ FCN = first clear night between these dates

Abingdon AS meets on the above dates at the Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon at 8 pm, except for the 'Observing evenings' when we meet at the sites shown at times to be arranged. For more details telephone: Ian Smith 07817 687627, Chris Holt 01235 204120 or Sebastian Linfoot 01865 725094 or visit our website: <http://www.abingdonastro.org.uk>

Location Map for Abingdon
Astronomical Society

All Saints Methodist Church Hall,
Dorchester Crescent,
Abingdon, Oxon.



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Monthly Meeting - These are held between September and June each year. They often feature talks and presentations by speakers invited from the astronomical/scientific community and are an opportunity for members to share information.

Beginners Meetings - In addition to the monthly meetings a series of Beginners Meetings are also held, aimed specifically at those of you just starting to discover and develop an interest in astronomy.

Equipment - The Society now has five telescopes which can be borrowed by members: a 3 inch refractor, an 80 mm 'short tube' refractor, a 90 mm 'go to' telescope and two 6 inch reflectors. A further 4 inch reflector is often brought to meetings for use during the coffee break or at the end of the meeting.

Newsletter - Our regular newsletter, *Spacewatch*, includes details of astronomical events, observations, notices and other Society activities.

Observing Evenings - Observing evenings are arranged regularly at rural sites or at Abingdon's riverside park and provide an opportunity to meet up with other Society members and put theory into practice. You don't even need a telescope or binoculars of your own as other members usually bring equipment along. Details are given at the monthly meetings.

Outings/Visits - Occasionally, visits to observatories and other places of interest are organised. Details are provided at the monthly meetings and in our newsletter.

Library - We have a growing library of recent books available to members. Subjects range from building your own telescope to advanced astrophysics.

Web-Site and e-mail - Of increasing importance is our web-site <http://www.abingdonastro.org.uk>, where additional information on the Society can be found, together with the current programme of meetings and events. There is also an Internet mailing list, which you can join via <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/abingdonas/>

Sharing of Information & Ideas - Whether through meetings, observing evenings or via the Internet, the Society is a great forum for discussing and exchanging ideas, information and knowledge on our favourite subject(s).

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The current membership fees have been set at £19 for ordinary members, £32 for family members and £10.50 for students and senior citizens.

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE MEET

The Abingdon Astronomical Society meets at:

All Saints' Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon. For directions see the enclosed map or visit the web site.

Main meetings commence at **8pm on the second Monday of each month** from September to June (inclusive). Beginners meetings are held on other Mondays, as shown in the Programme. Entrance is **free to members** and £4 for main meetings and £3 for beginners meetings to non-members. Tea and coffee (and even biscuits) are also provided for which a small charge is made.

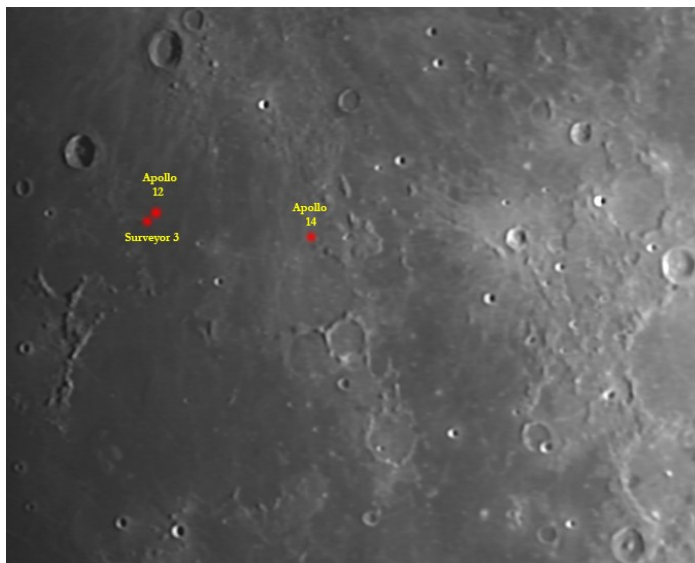
Members have been known to migrate to the local pub "for further astronomical discussions" once meetings have concluded - all are welcome!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

See the enclosed Programme for a full list of this year's meetings.

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Chairman - Ian Smith	Tel: (07817) 687627	E-mail: ian@ismith.org.uk
Secretary - Chris Holt	Tel: (01235) 204120	E-mail: chris.c.holt@ntlworld.com
Editor 'SpaceWatch' & Webmaster - Andrew Ramsey	Tel: (01865) 245339	E-mail: AbAstro@ATRamsey.com
Publicity Officer - Sebastian Linfoot	Tel: (01865) 725094	



Mare Insularum (Sea of Islands) was the site for the 19/11/1969 landing of the Intrepid lunar module of Apollo 12, 180 m from where the unmanned Surveyor 3 had landed in 1967. On 5/02/1971 the Antares lunar module of Apollo 14 landed 180 km to the east. Image by AAS member Cliff Jones . Meade 10" LX200 SCT, Astrovid 2000 video camera, frames processed using Registax.

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