

BULLETIN OF THE AYLESBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1966

No. 1

It was decided in committee and confirmed at the A.G.M. on 21st February, 1966 that it would be useful, especially for members who are unable to get to meetings, to have a bulletin from time to time giving an account of the activities and projected activities of the Society.

The Society is now in its fourth year with a membership of 55 including a few honorary members. The main task of the Society for some time to come must be the completion of Winchendon Hill Observatory. No programme of observations is contemplated until we have at least one instrument operational.

Other activities have included occasional visits to Observatories, Hertmonceux, Mill Hill, St. Osyth's (Frank Hyde's Radio Ob.) and further visits are planned including:-

Mullard Radio Observatory, Cambridge Starting 8.0a.m. April 16th, Exchange Street, Aylesbury. About 8/- per head.

Maidenhead Group April 26th. Pat Moore speaking. About 4/- per head. Details from Secretary.

We have held two Annual Dinners, 1964 and 1965 and one is planned for late 1966. Outside speakers have included Dr. King, W. M. Baxter, Mr. Dall and Mr. Hyde.

Guest speakers at ordinary meetings have included Mr. Dall, Mr. Baxter and Dr. Hawton. Courses have been held previously under the auspices of the W.E.A. at which lecturers have been Dr. King, Dr. Ingham and Alan Cruttenden, B.A.

Observatory Work on the Observatory at Winchendon Hill was held up in November owing to early frosts. We have four more courses of bricks to lay before construction of the dome can be started. Work on this commenced on March 5th and will continue, weather permitting, on Saturdays and Sundays. As many hands as possible please: We hope to get the dome up by July. The room underneath will then become a workshop for constructing the 24".

Eight-inch In the meantime work continues on the 8". It is nearly completed and should be ready to put in the dome as a temporary instrument while the 24" is being constructed. It is more or less portable and if we follow the original intention it will eventually be possible for members to borrow it.

Members with Instruments The following member have instruments of their own:

Colin Hunt .....	12"
Roy Sanders .....	8" ... 12" under construction
Hugh Foster .....	6" ... 8" & 15" under constr.
Peter Lancaster-Brown ...	12"
Gerard Rawlings .....	6" (on loan from B.A.A.)
Mr. Oates .....	4" refractor

Field Trip Four field trips have been made to Barwell by members (Peter Lancaster-Brown and Gerard Rawlings). Three small pieces of meteorite were recovered and pictures taken.

Frequency of Publication It is planned to issue this bulletin as and when there is anything to report rather than make it a regular publication. To save postage it will be normally be distributed at the monthly meeting. If members will please tick their names off on the list at the meetings the bulletin need only be posted to those who are not present.

Articles by members Articles and correspondence to the Editor please:- Gerard Rawlings, 75 Perry Street, Wendover. Wendover 3255. In the case of articles of any length members will be asked to make their own master copies. The special carbon necessary will be supplied by the Editor on request. This only applies to articles of several pages.

Jumble Sale A Jumble Sale is to be held on Easter Saturday, April 9 th from 2p.m. to 4p.m. Please turn out in force. It is very important to have enough helpers. It is hoped to raise £25 at least. Heavy goods can be collected and delivered. Please let the Secretary know in good time of anything that you cannot bring by hand:- Norman Neale, 9 Elm Close, Butlers Cross, Aylesbury. Wendover 2025.

Missing Slides Box No. 1 of the Winchendon Hill slides, Kodachrome 11 is missing, believed lent to a member. Anyone who knows where they are please communicate with the Editor.

Astronomer Royal The Astronomer Royal, Sir Richard Woolley, O.B.E., F.R.S. has kindly agreed to address us later in 1966. Details to be announced.

Halton Group R.A.F. Halton have an astronomical society. They have been in touch with the Secretary with a view to joint activities.