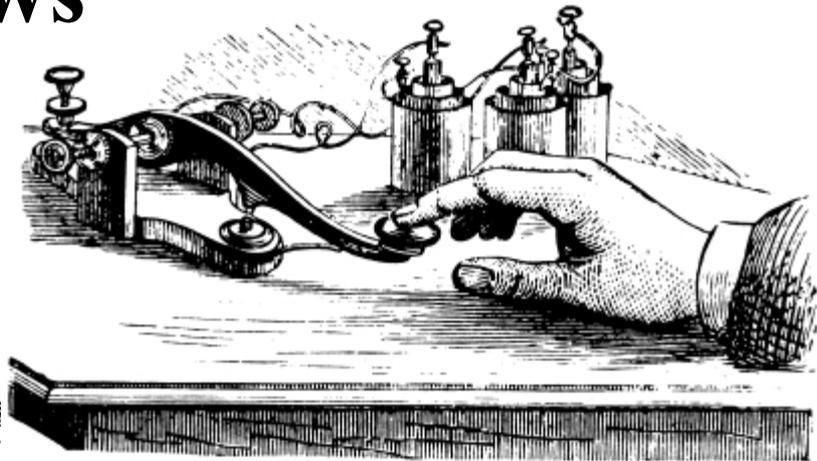
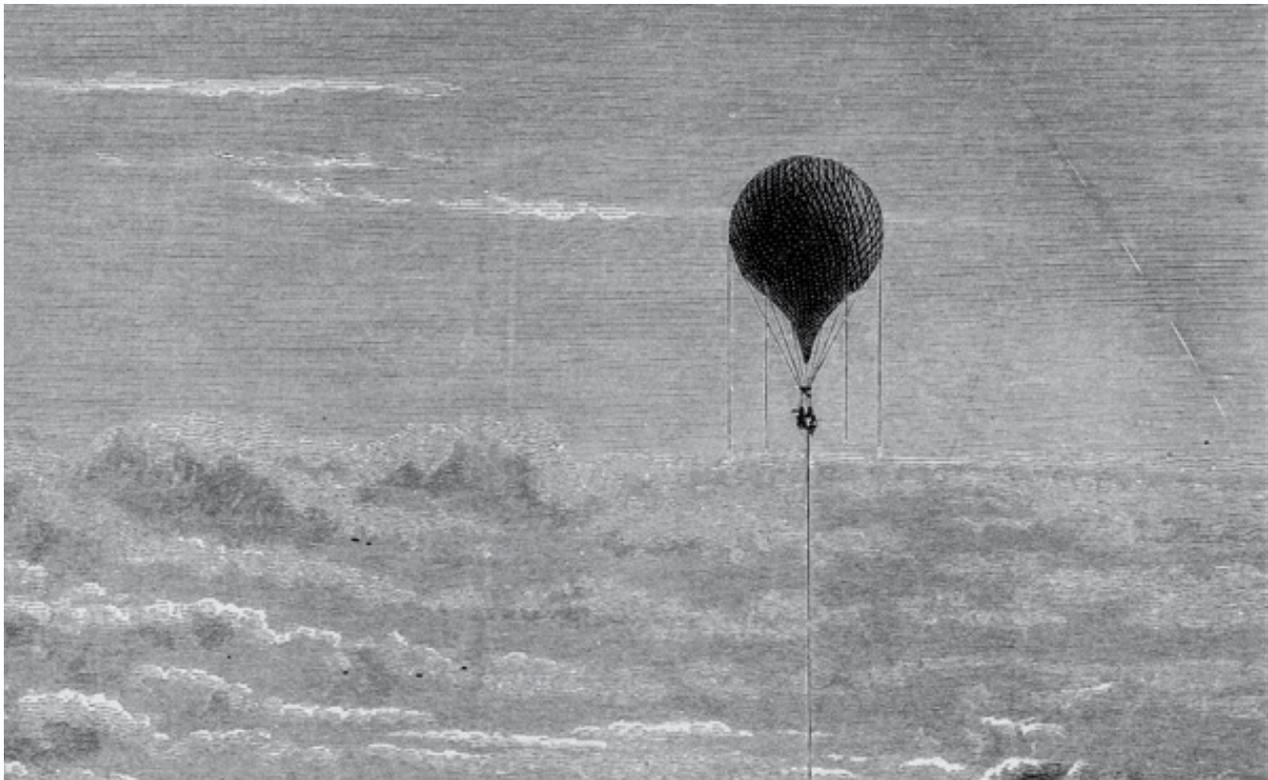


# SHA eNews



*Society for the History of Astronomy electronic news*  
Volume 5, no. 1, January 2013.

Editor: Clive Davenhall



This engraving is taken from *Travels in the Air* (1871) by the meteorologist and astronomer James Glaisher. It is the banner image for the exhibition *Atmospheres: Investigating the Weather from Aristotle to Ozone* at the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford. Further details of this exhibition are included in this *eNews*.

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## Dates for the Diary

**Sat. 6 Apr.** *BAA Historical Section Meeting*, on the theme *Observational Astronomy and Telescope-Making* (part of the BAA's Winchester Weekend residential course). Further details are given later in this *eNews* (non-SHA event).

**Sat. 20 Apr.** *SHA Spring Conference*, at the Quaker Meeting House, Friargate, York. Further details are given later in this *eNews*. A flyer is enclosed with this *eNews* and is also available from the Society's Web site.

**Sat. 22 - Sun. 23 Jun.** *Eleventh Annual Sophia Centre Conference*, on the theme *Celestial Magic* and to be held at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, Bath. See <http://www.tsd.ac.uk/en/sophia/> (non-SHA event).

**Sat. 29 Jun.** *SHA Summer Picnic*, University of London Observatory in Mill Hill, North London. The visit will include an opportunity to inspect the Observatory's instruments and equipment, both historic and modern. Further details are given later in this *eNews*.

**Mon. 22 - Sun 28 Jul.** *Twenty Fourth International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine*, on the theme 'knowledge at work' and to be held at the University of Manchester. See <http://www.ichstm2013.com/> (non-SHA event).

**Sat. 1 - Sat. 8 Sep.** *SEAC 2013*. The annual meeting of the Société Européenne pour L'Astronomie dans la Culture (SEAC) is to be held in Athens and the current working title is: *Astronomy: the Foundations of Civilization and Guide to the Future*. Further details will be available shortly from the SEAC Web site: <http://www.archeoastronomy.org/> (non-SHA event).

**Revised Date: Sat. 19 Oct.** *SHA Autumn Conference and AGM*, at the BMI in central Birmingham. Further details are given later in this *eNews*.

## Exhibitions

**Until Sat. 7 Apr.** *Atmospheres: Investigating the Weather from Aristotle to Ozone*, currently running at the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford. Further details are given later in this *eNews*.

**Until Fri. 27 Apr.** *Signs, Symbols, Secrets: an Illustrated Guide to Alchemy*, currently running at the Science Museum, London. Further details are given later in this *eNews*.

## **Announcements**

### **Sir Patrick Moore (4 March 1923 – 9 December 2012)**

Members will be aware of the sad death of Sir Patrick Moore at his home in Selsey during December. Sir Patrick served as one of the Society's Honorary Vice Presidents from its inception until his death and always took an active interest in its activities. His role as the pre-eminent populariser of astronomy throughout the second half of the twentieth century needs no recapitulation, but it bears mentioning that his approach was always informed by astronomy's long history, and, indeed, he was actively engaged in the subject's historical aspects.

The Society has already circulated appreciations by Madeline Cox and Stuart Williams, respectively the Chairman and General Secretary, and these are reprinted later in this *eNews*. We plan to carry a full obituary in the next issue of the *Bulletin*. The Society also hopes to collect and publish member's reminiscences and appreciations of Sir Patrick, and details of how to contribute these are also given later in this *eNews*.

### **Mr Richard H. Chambers (12 September 1931 – 21 November 2012)**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Mr Henry Chambers. Mr Chambers was a founder member of the SHA (FM 67) and, much earlier in his life had been instrumental in founding the Crayford Manor House Astronomical Society, of which he was the longest-serving member at the time of his death. He also a keen bibliophile and more recently served as Archivist for the BAA, where he put that organisation's archives in good order.

The Crayford Manor House Astronomical Society has an obituary of Mr Chambers on its Web site (URL: <http://www.crayfordmanorastro.com/>, then follow the link 'News'). We hope to publish an obituary in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

### **Mr Charles Chilton (15 June 1917 – 2 January 2013)**

Mr Charles Chilton, prolific writer and producer of radio programmes, author and lecturer, has died aged 95. He was not active in the history of astronomy (though he taught stellar navigation to trainee aircrew during the war), but he may be familiar to some readers for his classic 1950s radio serial for the BBC, *Journey into Space*. An obituary appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* for 4 January 2013 (URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/9778926/Charles-Chilton.html>).

## **SHA news**

### **Sir Patrick Moore**

*Members will be aware of the sad death of Sir Patrick Moore at his home in Selsey on 9 December 2012 at the age of 89. An obituary is in preparation and will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.*

*The SHA also plans to collect, archive, edit and publish member's reminiscences and appreciations of Sir Patrick. He will have been personally known to many members, and many others will have had their interest in astronomy awakened and inspired by his broadcasts and books.*

*The collection and any subsequent publication will provide both a tribute to Sir Patrick and a unique insight into grassroots astronomy in the second half of the twentieth century.*

*We encourage you to write down and submit your memories. Contributions of both text and photographs or digital images are very welcome. Where possible photographs and digital images should be accompanied by annotation which includes at least some of: the names of the people shown, the location and the approximate date. Contributions should be sent to Stuart Williams by either e-mail or by post to the following addresses:*

**e-mail:** *secretary@shastro.org.uk*

**postal:** *26, Matlock Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, WS3 3QD, UK.*

*You are welcome to discuss contributions with Mr Williams before submitting them.*

### **Appreciations**

Members will have heard of the sad passing of Sir Patrick Moore, on 9 December. Patrick died after a brief spell in hospital, but not before he had recorded December and January's *Sky at Night*, both of which were broadcast.

Patrick's commitment to astronomy was legendary. Many of us here in the UK, and around the world, were inspired by his love, his knowledge of, and his enthusiasm for his subject.

For many of us Patrick *was* astronomy, especially in the early years when there were few local societies around, and all our knowledge came from the *Sky at Night* and from books borrowed from the local library.

Patrick was our Honorary Vice President and always took a close interest in what was going on in the Society. Members of Council visited his home several times, where he was a most generous host.

There have been many tributes to Patrick already, and there will be a full obituary in the next *Bulletin*.

*Madeline Cox,  
Chairman, SHA.*

I well remember the first time I encountered Patrick Moore, long before he became ‘Sir’, ‘Dr’, or ‘FRS’. It was during the late 1960s, when he was one of the most prominent English voices linked with media coverage of NASA’s Apollo manned lunar exploration programme, which enthralled me in my primary school days and later.

By then, Patrick’s name was well established as the face of British amateur astronomy. It might even be said that without Patrick few members of the public would have had any idea that there was such a thing as amateur astronomy or that its practitioners were making important contributions to what we know today as ‘citizen science’.

I knew little enough about it myself at the time; my practical interest in astronomy was inspired, you see, by my passion for reading science fiction and by seeing and hearing Patrick on BBC TV and radio, especially in *The Sky At Night*. A great highlight of those times for me was discovering Patrick’s now mighty legacy of books in my second home – the Bloxwich Public Library.

I wrote to Patrick in those early days and, always generous with his time, he invariably answered, with advice both practical and inspirational. Over the years, I had occasional opportunities to meet him, and even helped him out of a jam when he spoke in Birmingham one time, but I could never have dreamed of actually working with him as a colleague. That was before the existence of the Society for the History of Astronomy, which in a very real sense came about because Patrick inspired me to take up astronomy myself.

Patrick’s inspiration and my professional involvement in local history led me inexorably to a connection with another great friend and inspiration, the remarkable Dr Allan Chapman. Allan and I came together to set up the SHA in 2002 and, when our other late and much-missed friend Ken Goward joined forces with us, followed by so many others, it was clear that our choice of the Society’s honorary officers would lead me back full circle to Patrick.

So it was that Allan became our Hon. President, Ken Goward suggested the eminent Dr Michael Hoskin as an Hon. Vice President on the academic side, and I proposed that we likewise invite Sir Patrick to represent both amateur astronomy and its history, as an essential part of the SHA’s *raison d’etre*. The SHA’s new Council concurred unanimously.

Patrick, generous as ever with his time, his support, his friendship – and yes, his inspiration once again, worked with us and lent his support to us over the following years, and the rest is, quite literally, history.

As a Council and as a Society we have been personal witnesses to, and have participated in, the final decade of a man who has been the greatest inspirer of public interest in astronomy in the twentieth and twenty first centuries. Most importantly, his legacy, his history and the memory of his friendship inspires us still, and always will.

*Stuart Williams,  
Co-founder and General Secretary, SHA.*

## **Minor planet Hingley**

We are especially pleased to report that a minor planet has been named after SHA Councillor and long-standing RAS Librarian Peter Hingley who, as members will recall, died unexpectedly during June 2012. Mr Hingley is now commemorated as 48447 Hingley (1990 TK<sub>2</sub>). The name was proposed by L.D. Schmadel who co-discovered the asteroid in October 1990 from the Tautenburg Observatory. 48447 Hingley is an Outer Main Belt body with an orbital period of 5.758 years. The name has been approved by the IAU Committee on Small Body Nomenclature and is reported in *Minor Planet Circular* 81070 dated 29 October 2012. The citation reads:

**(48447) Hingley = 1990 TK<sub>2</sub>**

Discovered 1990 Oct. 10 by L.D. Schmadel and F. Börngen at Tautenburg.

Peter D. Hingley (1951–2012) worked for many years as the Librarian of the Royal Astronomical Society. He was a well-known expert on the history of astronomy and published numerous articles in this field. Name proposed by L.D. Schmadel.

## ***Important: General Secretary***

The Society's General Secretary, Stuart Williams, had intended to step down at the AGM in October 2012 for personal reasons, including increasing family responsibilities and work commitments. However, in the absence of any candidate he reluctantly agreed to serve for a further year. Mr Williams was the Society's founding Secretary, serving until 2008 (following the late Ken Goward's death he also served as Treasurer for 18 months and was in addition, as he is now, the SHA's Webmaster). In his current stint he has been General Secretary since 2011. During these periods he has rendered an immense service to the Society and is owed an enormous debt of gratitude.

*Consequently, a volunteer for the post of General Secretary is sought, to stand for election at this year's AGM in October. The duties include drafting, in consultation with Council, the agenda for Council meetings and the AGM, and minuting those meetings. The General Secretary is also the first point of contact for external correspondents with the Society, both by post and e-mail, and will often attend to any miscellaneous matters that may arise that are not in the purview of other Officers. If you are interested in this post then in the first instance please contact Stuart Williams (secretary@shastro.org.uk) or Madeline Cox (madeline.cox@googlemail.com), who will be happy to discuss what is involved.*

## **Meetings During 2013**

The Society will hold the following meetings during 2013:

Sat. 20 Apr. *Spring Conference*,  
Sat. 29 Jun. *Summer Picnic*,  
Sat. 19 Oct. (Revised Date) *Autumn Conference and AGM*.

Details of all these events are given below.

## **2013 Spring Conference**

The SHA aims to hold meetings in venues throughout the UK and we are pleased to confirm that the 2013 *Spring Conference* will be held in the historic city of York. The meeting will be held on Saturday 20 April in the Quaker Meeting House in the Friargate. The programme is as follows:

09:30 Registration  
10:00 Madeline Cox, *Welcome to York*  
10:15 Mike Leggett, *Bryan Donkin FRS, Engineer, Industrialist, Astronomer*  
11:15 Richard Sargent, *Russell Porter – Arctic Explorer, Artist and Telescope Maker*  
12:15 Lunch (not provided)  
13:15 Madeline Cox, *Welcome to the afternoon session*  
13:15 Dr David Gavine, *Scottish Telescope Makers*  
14:15 Dr Ken Elliot, *Telescopes and Technology in the Twentieth Century – A Review of how Technology has Changed the Way We Do Astronomy*  
15:15 Afternoon refreshments  
15:45 Prof. Sir Arnold Wolfendale, *The History of Cosmic Ray Astronomy*  
17:00 Madeline Cox, *Concluding remarks*

Tickets are £10 per person and **should be booked in advance** if at all possible. Guests or non-members are most welcome. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Society for the History of Astronomy' and sent to The Treasurer, Roger Hutchins, 5, Sandringham Close, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1NU (note that Dr Hutchins has recently moved and this is his new address) or **pre-register by e-mail** (roger.hutchins@btinternet.com) and pay on the day.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided during morning registration and the afternoon break. However, you should make your own arrangements for lunch. The Friargate Meeting House is centrally located and close to transport links and medium and long stay car parking. The address is: Quaker Meeting House, Friargate, York, YO1 9RL See:

<http://yorkquakers.org.uk/friargate-meeting>

## 2013 Summer Picnic

The 2013 SHA Summer Picnic will be held on Saturday 29 June 2013 at the University of London Observatory in Mill Hill, North London. The visit will include an opportunity to inspect the Observatory's instruments and equipment, both historic and modern, while the picnic itself will be held in the adjacent park. Further details will be circulated closer to the event.

The foundation of the Observatory dates from 1925 when Mr J.G. Wilson donated his late father's 24-inch reflecting telescope to the University of London. The University and several of its individual colleges raised the funds for a building and the Observatory was opened by the then Astronomer Royal, Sir Frank Dyson, in 1929. Mr Wilson's reflector has been on permanent loan to the Merseyside Museums since 1974, but there are two telescopes of historic interest on site. One is the Radcliffe twin 24-inch/18-inch astrographic refractor which was made by Grubb of Dublin in 1901 and was previously at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford. The second is the Fry 8-inch refractor, made by Cooke of York and dating from 1862. Further information about the Observatory, including its history, can be found at URL:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/>

See also Roger Hutchins' *British University Observatories 1772-1939* (2008), pp413-17.

Tickets are £10 per person and **should be booked in advance** if at all possible. Guests or non-members are most welcome. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Society for the History of Astronomy' and sent to The Treasurer, Roger Hutchins, 5, Sandringham Close, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1NU (note that Dr Hutchins has recently moved and this is his new address) or **pre-register by e-mail** (roger.hutchins@btinternet.com) and pay on the day.

## **Revised Date: 2013 Autumn Conference and AGM**

The 2013 SHA Autumn Conference and AGM will be held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (BMI) in central Birmingham on **Saturday 19 October**. **Note the revised date**, which is a week earlier than the usual. The revision was necessary to avoid a clash with an existing booking at the BMI.

Anyone planning to attend is strongly urged to pre-book using the details below in order that we can supply accurate numbers for the catering. Papers for the AGM will be circulated in advance and members are invited to raise any issues concerning the Society during the AGM. The programme for the *Autumn Conference* is as follows:

- 09:30 Registration
- 10:00 Madeline Cox, *Welcome and Introduction*
- 10:15 Dr Bryn Jones, *Welsh Astronomy*
- 11.15 Frank Concannon, *Markree Observatory, and Irish Astronomy in the Nineteenth Century*
- 12:15 Lunch (not provided)
- 13:30 Madeline Cox, *Welcome to the afternoon session*
- 13:30 Madeline Cox, *2012 Annual General Meeting*
- 14:30 Mike Leggett, *Some Aspects of Norfolk Astronomy*
- 15:15 Afternoon refreshments
- 15:45 Dr Allan Chapman, *Measuring the Heavens and the Earth: Astronomy, Cartography, and Instruments*
- 16:45 Madeline Cox, *Concluding remarks*
- 17:00 Close

Tickets are £10 per person and **should be booked in advance** if at all possible. Guests or non-members are most welcome. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Society for the History of Astronomy' and sent to The Treasurer, Roger Hutchins, 5, Sandringham Close, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1NU (note that Dr Hutchins has recently moved and this is his new address) or **pre-register by e-mail** (roger.hutchins@btinternet.com) and pay on the day.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided during the afternoon break. However, you should make your own arrangements for refreshments prior to the meeting and for lunch. The BMI has a cafe and there are numerous cafes and restaurants close by.

The BMI is conveniently located in central Birmingham, within ten minutes walk of New Street station. Its address is 9, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS. See:

<http://www.bmi.org.uk>

## **Current Council Membership**

Following the AGM held on Saturday 27 October 2012 the complete current membership of the SHA Council as follows.

### **Honorary Council Members**

*Honorary President* Dr Allan Chapman, Wadham College, Oxford

*Honorary Vice President* Dr Michael Hoskin

*Honorary Vice President* Sir Patrick Moore CBE FRS (sadly now deceased)

### **Elected Council Members**

*Chairman* Madeline Cox FRAS

*Vice Chairman* Gilbert Satterthwaite FRAS

*General Secretary* Stuart Williams

*Treasurer* Roger Hutchins FRAS

*Membership Secretary* Bob Bower FRAS

*Head Librarian* Madeline Cox FRAS

*Archivist* Mark Hurn FRAS

*Survey Co-ordinator and Assistant Librarian* Roger Jones

*Publicity Officer* Mike Leggett FRAS

*Council Member* Jerry Grover FRAS

*Council Member* Kevin Kilburn FRAS

*Meetings Secretary* meetings enquiries to the Chairman please

### **Co-opted Council Members**

*Membership Records Officer* Anthony Kinder (co-opted)

*Executive Editor, The Antiquarian Astronomer* Kevin Johnson

*Editor, SHA Bulletin and e-News* Clive Davenhall

If you have any concerns about any aspect of the SHA any Council members will be very happy to discuss them. Contact details are given at the end of this *eNews*, or alternatively approach Council members during meetings.

## **Council Meetings in 2012**

The following Council meetings are scheduled for 2013:

Sat. 9 February,  
Sat. 8 June,  
Sat. 14 September,  
Sat. 23 November

All meetings will be held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham. Provisionally these meetings will start at 1:30 pm. Council meetings are not open due to lack of space, but any member may attend by prior arrangement with the General Secretary. Similarly, if you have any issue that you would like to raise with Council then please contact the General Secretary in advance (contact details at the end of this *eNews*).

## **The Antiquarian Astronomer**

Preparation of the next issue of *The Antiquarian Astronomer*, volume 7, is well advanced and it should be out in the Spring of 2013.

Papers for consideration for publication in *The Antiquarian Astronomer* are always welcome. Papers should present original research in the history of astronomy and are externally refereed prior to publication. If you are interested in submitting one then please contact the Editor, Kevin Johnson, who will be pleased to advise (contact details at the end of this *eNews*).

## **The Bulletin**

The latest issue of the SHA *Bulletin*, no. 22 in the series, was published during November and members should have received their copies by now. If you have not received a copy and believe that you should have done then please contact the Editor, Clive Davenhall (contact details at the end of this *eNews*), in the first instance.

The next issue of the *Bulletin* is in preparation and we hope to circulate it in late spring or early summer. This issue will contain a number of obituaries of deceased members and other historians of astronomy, as well as all the usual material.

Contributions for inclusion in the *Bulletin* are also always welcome and might include meeting reports, articles, letters and book reviews. Guidelines for contributions are available from the *Bulletin's* Web pages (see below). It is usually prudent to check with the Editor before preparing items, particularly for meeting reports, book reviews and obituaries, where duplication is a possibility. All correspondence should be sent to the Editor, as above.

## **On-line back issues of the Bulletin**

Complete contents lists are now available on-line for all issues of the *Bulletin* and its predecessor the *Newsletter*. Also, back issues of the full text are available as PDF files for most issues. The full text is not available for some issues because of concerns over the licensing or copyright of images that they contain. Investigations continue into removing these images so that the rest of the issue can be made available. We hope to complete this process during 2013.

The back issues are available via a link in the *Bulletin* section of the 'Publications' page of the Society's Web site or directly from the following URL:

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/24095066/contents/index.html>

## **SHA Web site**

Over the past year some current web browsers have encountered difficulties with viewing the SHA's Web site at its official URL:

<http://www.shastro.org.uk/>

You will recall that other links were given to members to temporarily work around this problem, which was caused by incompatibilities between the systems used to host and produce the Web site.

We can now announce that the SHA website has been rebuilt and re-launched on the Web contents management system Wordpress.com (see for example <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress>) by our Webmaster Stuart Williams. The standard SHA URL (above) is now officially reinstated, and should be used exclusively from now on. The previous site is being gradually deleted to avoid confusion and some parts of the new site are currently still being added to.

The move offers considerable advantages to members which will be rolled out in the months ahead, but these immediately include the ability to subscribe to news posts by e-mail, and a password-protected Members section is under construction with members-only facilities. A password for this facility will be e-mailed to members when it is ready.

The new site is closely complemented by the new SHA Survey of Astronomical History Web site, edited by Survey Co-ordinator Roger Jones, which is also hosted on Wordpress.com and may be reached from the Survey menu on the main SHA site.

## Survey Competition

The result of the 2011/12 Survey Competition will be decided at the next Council meeting, on 9 February, and announced shortly thereafter.

Meanwhile please keep your contributions coming in... they are of real value to the Survey. And take a look at our new on-line pages; they can be accessed from the menu bar on the main SHA Web site (above) or directly at:

<http://shasurvey.wordpress.com>

## Membership subscription for 2013

Membership subscriptions for 2013 are now due. A subscription renewal form is available for download from the Society's Web site. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Society for the History of Astronomy' and sent to the Membership Secretary, Bob Bower (contact details at the end of this *eNews*). Pensioners, full-time students and those not in paid employment are eligible for Concessionary Membership. The table below lists the 2013 rates for the various categories of membership. If you have not renewed your subscription by 31 March 2013 then, in accordance with the Society's Constitution, your membership will be deemed to have lapsed.

<b>Membership category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ordinary Membership	£25.00
Family Membership	£30.00
Concessionary Membership	£20.00
Institutional Membership	£25.00
Overseas Supplement, Europe	£5.00
Overseas Supplement, rest of world	£10.00

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## Other news

### BAA Historical Section Meeting

The next BAA Historical Section meeting will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 6 April 2013 on the theme of the *Observational Astronomy and Telescope-Making*. This meeting will be part of the BAA's 'Winchester Weekend' residential course to be held at Sparsholt College, west of Winchester (postcode SO21 2NF) over 5-7 April 2013. The following speakers are confirmed:

Bob Marriott, *The Silver-on-Glass Revolution*

Lee Macdonald, *Isaac Roberts, E.E. Barnard and the Mysterious Nebulae*

Keith Snedegar, *A.W. Roberts and the Quest for Precision Visual Photometry*

To complement Bob Marriott's talk, there will be a demonstration of mirror-making. It will also be possible for Section members to display material; currently Paul Haley is planning a display on Sir David Gill.

BAA non-members are welcome to attend for the day or for the whole weekend but the number of day-places on the Saturday is limited. The price for the whole weekend (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) is £190.00 for non-BAA and £ 170.00 for members.

For the Saturday only (lectures start around 9:15; the Section meeting will run approximately between 14:15-16:30; evening lecture 19:30-21:00) are £37.00 including lunch or £54.00 including lunch and evening meal.

Any non-member of the BAA who wishes to attend should contact Mike Frost, Director of the Historical Section (frostma@aol.com; 01788 814643) or Jean Felles at the BAA office (office@britastro.org; 0207 734 4145).

#### **Further information:**

BAA Historical Section Web site: <http://britastro.org/history/>

BAA Web site: <http://britastro.org/baa/>

### New BBC restoration programme

*Do you have an old but damaged telescope or other instrument that you'd like to see restored? Boundless Productions, on behalf of the BBC, is looking for individuals with suitable items to feature in a new restoration programme. The call for volunteers is included below; note the closing date.*

Does someone you know have a treasured item that has fallen into disrepair? Perhaps something that has been sat in the garage or loft for years and no longer works? Would you like to surprise them by secretly restoring it?

TV company Boundless Productions (makers of Grand Designs and Great British Railway Journeys) is looking for people who have something of great personal importance they'd like to restore as part of a prospective new series for the BBC.

This could be something that's special to you that you'd love to be restored or an object you'd like to restore as a surprise for the owner.

This is a great opportunity for someone to follow the restoration process of an item special to their family and discover how this item links to the wider history of their local area and Britain as a whole.

If you are interested please get in touch. E-mail: [Therestorers@boundlessproductions.tv](mailto:Therestorers@boundlessproductions.tv) or check out the BBC website at:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/shows/beonashow/the\\_restorers](http://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/shows/beonashow/the_restorers)

See data-protection terms at:

<http://www.fremantlemediauk.com/data-protection>

Please note the closing date is **31 January 2013**.

## **IoA Open Afternoon**

The Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, will hold its annual open afternoon, when members of the public are invited to visit, on Saturday **23 March**. It is hoped to have some historical material on display and that the SHA will also have a stall. Members are most welcome to attend.

Further details will be announced on the IoA Web site where directions may also be found. The URL is:

<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/>

## **Exhibition: *Atmospheres***

The exhibition *Atmospheres: Investigating the Weather from Aristotle to Ozone* is currently running at the Museum of the History of Science Oxford until **Saturday 7 April**. It illustrates the history of meteorology, from the ruminations of Medieval Oxford philosophers to modern studies from artificial satellites.

Meteorology is often a source of interest (and irritation) to astronomers and the exhibition may appeal to some readers. In addition, it includes some specifically astronomical material, including a diptych sundial of 1678 by Hans Georg Herttel which has scales for predicting the weather and an 'Astronomical Compendium' (a compendium of several instruments) of 1557 by Christoph Schissler. Other material explores the importance of astronomers and astronomical observatories for recording meteorological data and modern investigations of the atmospheres of other planets in the solar system.

On Tuesday 26 February at 7:00 pm Dr Leigh Fletcher, a Royal Society Research Fellow in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics at the University of Oxford, will give a lecture associated with the exhibition entitled 'Stormy Weather: Exploring Atmospheres in the Outer Solar System.'

Further information is available on the Museum's Web site:

<http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/exhibits/atmospheres/>  
<http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/exhibits/atmospheres-2/>

## **Exhibition: *Signs, Symbols, Secrets***

Though not strictly within the field of the history of astronomy some readers may be interested in the exhibition *Signs, Symbols, Secrets: an Illustrated Guide to Alchemy*, at the Science Museum, London. The exhibition is already open and runs until **Friday 27 April**. It comprises 22 historical images, all illustrating aspects of alchemy and drawn from the Museum's Library and Archives.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a newly-discovered 'Ripley Scroll' which dates from the eighteenth century. Ripley Scrolls feature some of the most complex and fascinating, if enigmatic, of alchemical imagery. They are extremely rare; only 23 are known and all are thought to derive from a lost fifteenth century original.

*Note that this exhibition comprises just 22 images and the Science Museum recommends 15 minutes to visit it, which may be a consideration if you have to undertake a lengthy and expensive journey to visit. Further information is available on the Museum's Web site:*

<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/galleries/>

and follow the link 'Special Exhibitions' then the link to the exhibition. For more information on the Ripley Scrolls see, for example:

**Rediscovered Ripley Scroll at the Science Museum**

[http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/about\\_us/press\\_and\\_media/press\\_releases/2012/04/Ripley\\_Scroll.aspx](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/about_us/press_and_media/press_releases/2012/04/Ripley_Scroll.aspx)

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-04/17/science-museum-discovers-rare-alchemy-scroll>

**Complete image of a Ripley Scroll at Yale University**

[http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Ripley\\_Scroll.JPG](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Ripley_Scroll.JPG)

**George Ripley**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Ripley\\_%28alchemist%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Ripley_%28alchemist%29)

## eNews admin

### Next Issue

The next issue will be circulated around 1 April 2013.

Contributions for inclusion in this issue should reach me by 15 March 2013.

Snippets for the *eNews*, typically notices of forthcoming events, are always welcome. Longer items suitable for the *SHA Bulletin* are also welcome and should be sent to the same address.

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