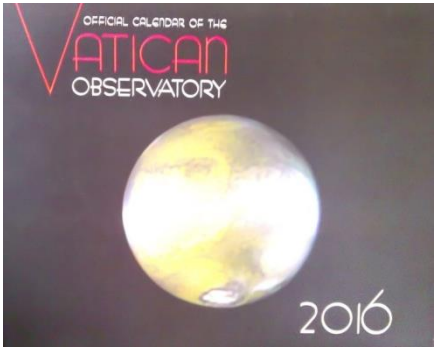
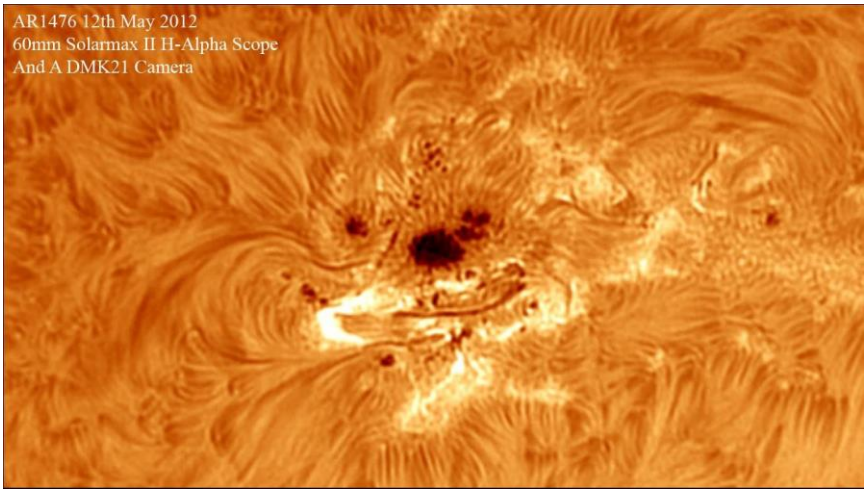
The Messenger
Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society
November 2015

Mick Nicholls is a "Calendar Boy"

Mick has achieved some measure of notoriety – or maybe in line to become "Saint Michael"! He has had one of his solar images accepted for the Vatican calendar. In his own words here is how it happened – "*I posted an image from my solar images archive on facebook and someone from the Vatican observatory or a rep of the observatory asked me if they could use it for a calendar so I said yes (at this point there was no mention of the Vatican calendar). After that I forgot all about it until there was a great big thud on the floor posted through the letter box marked calendars. I thought I haven't ordered any calendars so when I opened it and saw 3 Vatican calendars in the package I was gob smacked as I am not religious either. I then remembered the guy asking me for my image for a calendar and I put 2 and 2 together. I never thought he would actually print the calendar and use my image. I am very well chuffed to get an image in the official Vatican calendar and must be my best imaging moment to date. It must be pointed out that it is the Vatican observatory in Tucson Arizona that has used my image not the observatory in Vatican City itself.*"







The Thoughts of Chairman Les



There's not much from be this time as things are running quite smoothly. We have not had any significant information from YWS recently but we are still moving forward with the observatory project as a whole. Our fundraising officer has been given to green light to go ahead with the necessary searching for the funds needed for the project. Should you know of any funding body's or indeed companies that you thing might help please let the committee know the details.

The use of the observatory continues to be busy. Our astrophotographers continue with their Tuesday nights and there has been a PVE which was well attended. Another of our joint events with the RSPB took place during last month and proved to be another success.

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Les Marsden

Tuesday Night Imaging Group

The Imaging group meets every Tuesday from 19:30 (ish) until late at the Observatory.
Now that the nights are drawing in and getting darker, the likelihood of being able to gather data is improving.
Even when the clouds roll in, we still attend and discuss processing techniques and learn from each other. All data captured on any evening is available to those that attend for personal processing. We all started somewhere, and it's a good environment to learn in. All levels catered for.
Please feel free to join us, no appointment necessary.

Mike Scollan

SOLSTICE DINNER

FRIDAY JUNE 17th 2016 **ROCKINGHAM ARMS – Wentworth 7pm**

Menu

STARTER	MAIN	PUDS
Whitebait	Half Roast Chicken	Chocolate Fudge Cake
Stilton Mushrooms (V)	Roast Beef Topside	Ice Cream Sundae
Soup of the Day	Roast Pork	Apple & Blackberry Crumble
	Halloumi & Chips	

Keynote Speaker – We are hoping to bring in Alan Chapman
Wives, Girlfriends, Significant others, and even family members are invited too
Please indicate either on the form on the wall at the club room or by email to royg@gmx.co.uk – you will then be chased up for £5 deposit per person ASAP. At some stage near the event we will need to know your choice of menu. Estimated Cost £20 (on 50 attendees

Andrew Kirton-Vaughan's October Skynopsis



The Planets

Mercury	*Not Visible*
Venus	*Visible for 3 hours before sunrise in Virgo*
Mars	*Visible for 2½ hours before sunrise in Virgo*
Jupiter	Visible for 02:00 to 07:00 in Leo
Saturn	Not Visible
Uranus	In Pisces. Good viewing until 01:00.
Neptune	In Aquarius. Good viewing until 21:00 on 1st and until 19:15 by 30th
Pluto	Not Visible

Diary (all times GMT unless otherwise specified)

3rd	Moon at Last Quarter. Conjunction between Venus and Mars
5th	Taurid meteor shower. Max 10 per hr. Moon 23 days old. (Bonfire Night!)
6th	Conjunction between Moon and Jupiter
7th	Conjunction between Moon and Mars, Moon and Venus
11th	New Moon
18th	Leonid meteor shower. Max 20 per hr. Moon 7 days old.
19th	Moon at First Quarter
22nd	Conjunction between Moon and Uranus
25th	Full Moon

Galactic Goodies:

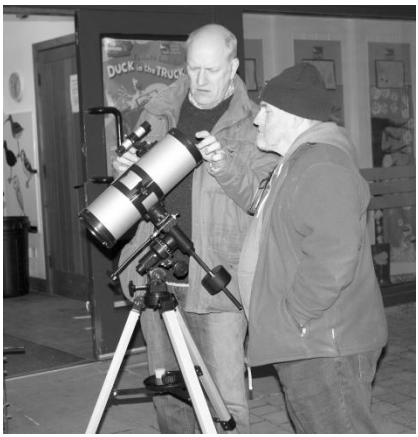
Globular Clusters	NGC 7078 / Messier 15 in Pegasus. Mag 6.4
Open Clusters	M 103 / M52 – in Cassiopia M36/37/38 in Auriga
Double Stars	Alpha Cassiopeiae - yellow primary & faint blue secondary. Eta Cassiopeiae - Easily split double star. A yellow-white primary and a red-gold secondary. Eta Persei - yellow-gold primary and a fainter blue companion.
Variable Stars	Algol (Beta Persei) – Dips 1.5 magnitudes every 2.86 days.
Planetary Nebula:	The Little Dumbell Nebula - Messier 76 / NGC 650. Mag 12
Diffuse Nebula:	Flaming Star Nebula – IC 405 / Caldwell 31 in Auriga Pacman Nebula – NGC 281. With associated star cluster. Mag 7 in Cassiopeia
Galaxies:	Andromeda Galaxy & Companions - Messier 31, 32 & 110 Triangulum Galaxy - Messier 33 / NGC 598 Messier 74 / NGC 628 in Pisces Mag 10.5

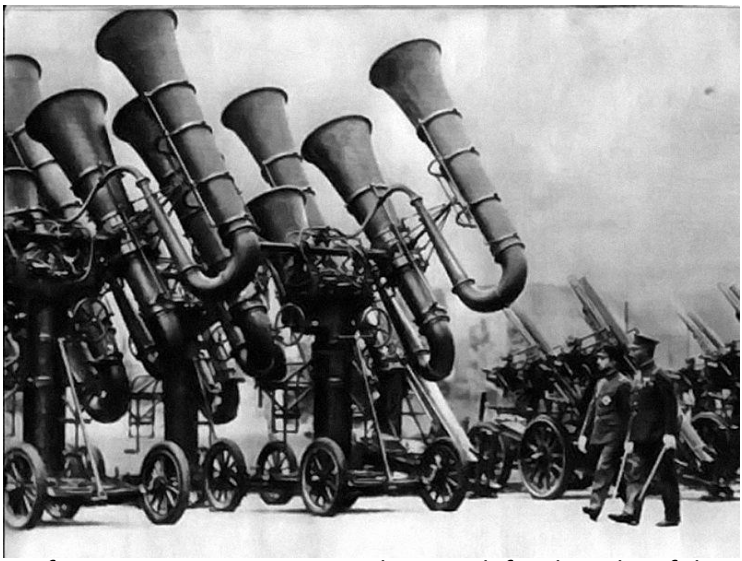
Our Public Event at Old Moor RSPB Saturday October 17th

Probably one of the quiestest events we have had there in terms of number – just over 30 “visitors”. Still the pie & peas were nice.
We had 3 scopes set up in the courtyard – skies were very cloudy and it rained a little later. Les was still in Spanish Siesta mode – and was hurriedly reminded that he should be fronting his usual talk instead of snoozing in front of the X factor! Phil guided visitors around the sky using Stellarium, whilst Mike Hall manned the book stall.









Professor Harry Kirry continues his search for the Echo of the Big Bang

A Real Yorkshire Astronomer's Lament



Ar noted when t' impending perigeean flight war due,
To look fort' supermoon's blood orange hue
Ant coincidental neat-time moon's eclipse -
T' war the telescopic event ont' astronomers' lips.
So ar duly stocked up with Mars Bars ant Twix.

Ar must remember to set t' alarm fort apposite cosmic falconry,
And peer at moon fromt tent or balcony.
Aided by umbrally-aligned perigrine
Slipping 'tween pomegranate, red kite-like cauldron.
Ar must remember to set t' alarm for this dual lunar opposition.

Ar ditched thought aut sleeping int' moonlit luminosity,
Sleeping bag-cocooned ant swathed in particle-wave duality,
Dreaming of drinking int' moonshine and visualising Venusians,
An looking Siriusly for mi dog urnt pals - the Kentucky boozy 'uns.
They called thursens 'White Lightnin' urn often dressed as Nuns.

Ar set alarm urn got up feeling plucky.
A rum tot was much safer than hooch of old Kentucky.
And mi dog was as loving as any pooch could be,
Even wit' missing eye and ear – he's a mucky puppy.
So ar picked up 'scope and went artside with Lucky.

Reminiscent of biblical fears.
This dual event hent happened fur years.
When umbra an blood both coincide
And gravitational pull surges tide.
'Tis no wonder 'twas flooding ont' Skell, Kyle and Rye.

But to mi dismay urn consternation
Wombwell and Hoober wont places to be waitin'.
Ar munched ont' Mars Bars and dual Twix.
Alas no blood moon and lunar eclipse:
Ruddy, sardonic bloody mist – Ar nearly slipped a Saturnic disc!

Geoff Pike. Oct 2015

“Last of the Spanish Wine”

A few holiday photos from the clubs delegation visit to Andy and Judy Devey in southern Spain and the MSAS “Southern European Observatory”.



Andy & Mick at the Sauna



Our Intrepid bunch waiting for the bar to open



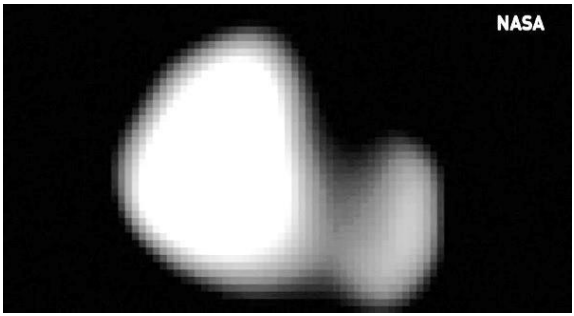
It wasn’t all fun - Alan had to check that the hot tub was still working EVERY day



Presenting Andy and Judy with the MSAS Southern European Observatory Plaque

Kerberos

As seen by the New Horizons probe. The latest image released by the JPL team is of the small moon of Pluto, Kerberos. It completes the portraits of Pluto and all its moons. It's about 6km long by 3 mi wide and seems to be double lobed like the comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko.



Jez's montage of the recent Lunar Eclipse



Programme for November & December 2015

Date	Time	Location	Subject & Speaker
Thu Nov 5th	19:45	Club Room	**Planet Hunting in Poland** *Peter Jalowiczor*
Tue Nov 10th	18:00	Observatory	**CAE – Chapeltown Rainbows** *Alan Birch*
Wed Nov 11th	19:45	Club Room	**Executive Committee Meeting**
Thu Nov 12th	19:45	Club Room	**So … this is Astronomy** *Jo Botterill & Joan Launders*
Mon Nov 16th	19:00	U3A Barnsley	**Shakespearian Astronomy** *Roy Gunson*
Wed Nov 18th	19:00	Observatory	**CAE – Rotherham Guides** *Alan Birch*
Thu Nov 19th	19:45	Club Room	**Into Darkness, New Horizons** *Paul Money*
Fri Nov 20th	19:45	Observatory	**PVE** *Les Marsden*
Sat Nov 21st	16:00	Wentworth Castle	**Stargazing @ Wentworth** *Les Marsden & Phil Muffett*
Mon Nov 23rd	19:00	Observatory	**CAE – Chapeltown Scouts** *Alan Birch*
Thu Nov 26th	19:00	Observatory	**CAE – Barnsley Scouts** *Alan Birch*
Thu Nov 26th	19:45	Club Room	**Winter Sky** *Andrew Kirton-Vaughan*
Thu Dec 3rd	19:45	Club Room	**Yuri Gagarin** *Victoria Southgate*
Mon Dec 7th	19:00	Observatory	**CAE – Chapeltown Scouts** *Alan Birch*
Wed Dec 9th	19:45	Club Room	**Executive Committee Meeting**
Thu Dec 10th	19:45	Club Room	**100 Years of Relativity** *Dr Susan Cartwright*
Thu Dec 17th	19:45	Club Room	**Waiting to be Told** *Jez Robinson*

Old Moor RSPB – Manvers Way, Barnsley, S73 0YF
Wentworth Castle – Stainborough, Barnsley, S75 3ET
Thryberg Country Park – Doncaster Rd, Rotherham, S65 4NU
U3A Barnsley – Tesco Community Room, Stairfoot, Barnsley
PVE – Public Viewing Event
CAE – Community Access Event

Web site: http://msas.org.uk
Meeting room is at Swinton Working Men's Club, Station Street, Swinton, South Yorkshire, S64 8AU.
Observatory is at Lee Brook Lane, Hoober, S62 7SH
Mexborough & Swinton Astronomical Society is Registered Charity N° 1064103 in England & Wales

For submissions to The Messenger - Editor: Roy Gunson: royg@gmx.co.uk