



# SHA e-NEWS

*The SHA's new mode of Internet communication.*

MR. KENNETH JOHN GOWARD ESQ., FRAS, 1952 - 2009



*The friendly face of the SHA: Ken Goward at the 2008 SHA AGM & Spring Conference.*

It is with the deepest regret and sadness that I have to report the passing of one of the Society for the History of Astronomy's greatest and longest-serving stalwarts, Mr. Kenneth J. Goward, FRAS, of Tuddenham St. Martin, near Ipswich, Suffolk. Mr. Goward, a retired police officer, had suffered from heart problems for many years and was fitted with a pacemaker in January of this year. His death on 26th February 2009 was sudden and unexpected.

When I began work on the foundation of the SHA back in 2001, with the support of Dr. Allan Chapman of Wadham College, Oxford, it was Ken who came forward and stood as the Society's first Treasurer, and who played a vital role in organising the Founding Meeting at Wadham College in 2002. Without his unstinting help, enthusiasm and friendship the process of setting up and running the SHA would have been a far more difficult and less enjoyable task.

Ken was also the "friendly face" of the SHA in many ways. Having put our finances on an even keel, and also working in effect as membership secretary, he went on not only to build a wonderful 'baroque' display stand for the Society but to travel with it around the country, promoting the Society to others as well as being the first point of contact for members at our own events. His contribution to the organisation of those events, and to the work of Council, cannot be overstated. He was, quite simply, not only a co-founder, but a pillar of the Society, and his loss to us all as a true friend and colleague is a grievous one. He will be missed, but he will never be forgotten, and his work for the history of astronomy will live long after him.

Ken Goward was also a steam enthusiast and amateur astronomer, being at one time Treasurer and later Chairman of Orwell Astronomical Society. A dedicated family man, he leaves his wife, Mrs. Lorraine Goward, and two sons, Matthew and Daniel. Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with them all at this sad time.

*Stuart Williams*

## **2009: Dickens said it all**

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going the other way."*

*- Charles Dickens,*

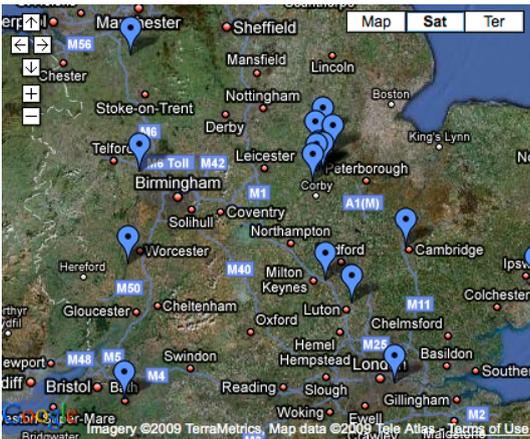
*A Tale of Two Cities, 1859*

A 150 year old quote from one of Dickens' most famous novels seems to have particular resonance at the moment. What with world economic downturn, conflict, the difficulties of daily life, the challenges of running a national society and the sadness resulting from the loss of a friend, it seems there is much to give us pause this year, and yet there is also much in this year to enjoy.

What Ken Goward and I always said about the SHA after every success and every hiccup was "Onward and upward". Never a truer word was spoken. We pick ourselves up and do the best we can to move forward. That is our way.

*Stuart Williams, Editor*

## SURVEY OF ASTRONOMICAL HISTORY



Online survey map courtesy [Google Maps UK](#)

This month we have added a new feature to our main survey page. Many of you will be aware of Google Maps which, like Google Earth, map the planet using aerial and satellite imagery; in many urban areas right down to street level. This can be

most useful for locating and pinpointing the observatories and residences of astronomers mentioned in our survey.

County coordinators are asked to consider linking their research findings to this map when reviewing their data; in fact we have already pinpointed a selection. You can see the results by visiting the main Survey page on the [SHA website](#). Once there, you can zoom in on an area and click on a pin. Members may find it easier to click on 'View Larger Map' which takes you to Google Maps. As an example the latest imagery shows Lord Wrottesley's now derelict observatory near Wolverhampton, not far from where the SHA held its 2007 picnic. Take a close look.

Members can contribute by searching Google Maps or Google Earth and sending location details or postcodes to Roger Jones, survey coordinator. We await 'new' findings with bated breath.

*Roger Jones*

## PROGRESS WITH THE SHA BULLETIN

As we announced in the first issue of the *SHA e-News*, the former *SHA Newsletter* is to be replaced with two complementary publications: the *e-News*, which you are now reading, and a *Bulletin*. The *e-News* carries Society and other timely news and appears monthly. The *Bulletin* is to carry the remaining material that previously appeared in the *Newsletter*. It will be a substantial publication of about forty pages which will appear twice per year, in the spring and autumn.

The preparation of the first issue of the *Bulletin* is in hand. We anticipate that it will be distributed in late April or early May. The contents are not yet completely settled, but should include write-ups of last year's Spring and Autumn Conferences. There should also be a report of the symposium *The Invention of the Dutch Telescope* held in Middelburg, Holland during last September and a couple of shorter articles. In addition there will be the regular material that appeared in the *Newsletter*: letters, book reviews, Survey news and a Library update. The new *Observatory Scrapbook* will continue.

Newsletter 17 contained several requests for information. Paul Haley asked about Professor Mayer, W.S. Gilman Jr, astronomical stained glass windows and the eclipse of 1836; Charles Barclay wanted to know about the previous owner (from

Torquay) of the dome of the Blackett Observatory; there was a request for details of clocks keeping local time and several others. There is still (just!) time to contribute replies for inclusion in the Spring Bulletin. They should reach me no later than mid-March; contact details are given below. We are always glad to receive letters, items for the *Observatory Scrapbook* series and other contributions for publication. Ultimately the success of the *Bulletin*, and more widely the Society, depends on the contributions of members, which is to say you.

Letters and other contributions for the *Bulletin* should be sent to me at e-mail address [newsletter@shastro.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@shastro.org.uk) or by post to 30, Millar Crescent, Morningside, Edinburgh, EH10 5HH.

*Clive Davenhall*

## ANTIQUARIAN ASTRONOMER DELAY

Publication of the fifth issue of *The Antiquarian Astronomer* continues to be delayed, largely due to ongoing health problems of the Editor, Dr. Reg Withey.

Dr. Withey is however hopeful of publishing *AA5* by Easter, and members will be notified by email when the journal goes to press.

Thank you on behalf of Dr. Withey and the Council of the SHA for your patience. SW

## History of Astronomy Event Previews for 2009

SATURDAY 14 MARCH:

### VICTORIAN ASTRONOMY AND TECHNOLOGY DAY

Organised by Pendrell Hall Observatories at the Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 4SQ. Commences 10am and includes displays, demonstrations, tours and (from 11.00am) guest speakers: Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS "Victorian Astronomers Royal"; Dr. Allan Chapman "James Glaisher"; Rt. Revd. M.G. Bourke "Victorian Clerical Astronomers"; John Armitage (Pendrell Hall Observatories) "Lord John Wrottesley", and Bob Marriott (BAA) on "T. W. Webb, with comments also on With and Calver". **BOOKING NOW ESSENTIAL** - Contact John Armitage, tel: 01543 579805. See: <http://www.bclm.co.uk/events3.htm> *JA/SW*

SATURDAY 28 MARCH:

### JOINT MEETING OF THE SHA WITH THE ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

Joint meeting of the SHA with the Royal Meteorological Society's Special Interest Group for the History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography from 10.30am-4.45 pm at the Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BQ. Entitled *Meteorologists and Astronomers*, the meeting will explore links between meteorologists and astronomers and will include the R Met S History Group's AGM. **Registration £10 - please see the programme etc distributed with this issue.**

This event is organised by the Royal Meteorological Society; contact Malcolm Walker: [MetSocHistoryGroup@googlemail.com](mailto:MetSocHistoryGroup@googlemail.com). See: <http://www.rmets.org/events/detail.php?ID=427>. The SHA contact is co-organiser Peter Hingley: [pdh@ras.org.uk](mailto:pdh@ras.org.uk) *RMetS/SW*

SATURDAY 18 APRIL:

### 'BOOKS AND THE SKY - A MEETING TO HONOUR DAVID W. DEWHIRST'

Dr. David Dewhirst was Librarian and Astronomer at the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, England, from 1950-93.

Speakers at this Society for the History of Astronomy one day conference are to include Sir Francis Graham Smith, Michael Hoskin, Jim

Bennett, Roger Hutchins and Peter Hingley. The theme is broadly history of astronomy. Starts 10.30am at the IoA. Booking is required, if you are interested contact SHA Archivist and IoA Librarian Mark Hurn: [hurnm@ast.cam.ac.uk](mailto:hurnm@ast.cam.ac.uk) or Peter Hingley: [pdh@ras.org.uk](mailto:pdh@ras.org.uk)

**PLEASE SEE FULL DETAILS AND  
BOOKING FORM ATTACHED SEPARATELY.**

For more about the IoA, see: [http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/about\\_ioa/](http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/about_ioa/) *Mark Hurn*

FRIDAY 8 MAY:

### RAS SPECIALIST DISCUSSION MEETING - MARS BEFORE THE SPACE AGE

Royal Astronomical Society Lecture Theatre, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BQ ([www.ras.org.uk](http://www.ras.org.uk)). Organisers: Barrie Jones, [OU b.w.jones@open.ac.uk](mailto:b.w.jones@open.ac.uk), Peter Hingley, RAS [pdh@ras.org.uk](mailto:pdh@ras.org.uk). Admission: RAS members free, £15 non-members, £5 students. **The programme for this event is attached with this issue** and may also be downloaded from the RAS website: [http://www.ras.org.uk/images/stories/ras\\_pdfs/meetings/Mars-before\\_pbprog.pdf](http://www.ras.org.uk/images/stories/ras_pdfs/meetings/Mars-before_pbprog.pdf) *RAS/SW*

### THOMAS HARRIOT EVENTS

This year is the four-hundredth anniversary of the first astronomical observations with a telescope. Englishman Thomas Harriot made the first such observations known, observing the Moon in July 1609. A few months later Galileo began the observations that resulted in his *Sidereus Nuncius* of 1610. Several events are taking place during the year to commemorate Harriot's observations, some of which are listed below.

From 24 July West Sussex Record Office in Chichester will display copies of Harriot's drawings. For West Sussex Record Office see <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/libraries-and-archives/record-office/>

From 23 July the Science Museum in London will host the exhibition *Cosmos and Culture* to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy. This exhibition will include a selection of Harriot's images. See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7827732.stm>

Meanwhile Harriot's original Moon map will be on display in Florence as part of an exhibition on Galileo.

*CD*

**CALL FOR PAPERS: SHA AUTUMN CONFERENCE SATURDAY 31 OCT 2009**

This year's SHA Autumn Conference has the theme of 'Astronomers Abroad' to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy. We are looking for five or six SHA members to speak on the topic, which is intended to focus on non-UK astronomers working within the UK, or non-UK astronomers working abroad. The meeting, which will be held in the Dickens Room at the Birmingham & Midland Institute in Birmingham, England (see: [www.bmi.org.uk](http://www.bmi.org.uk)) will start with Reception at 9.30am and the first lecture will commence at 10.00am following an Introduction and Welcome by SHA Chairman Gilbert Satterthwaite. It is hoped to have a flexible morning session with perhaps two or three speakers giving 30-40 minute talks between 10am - 1pm. The afternoon session (from 2pm) will include time for questions

followed by closing comments by the Chairman. The BMI closes at 5pm therefore the Conference will close no later than 4.30pm.

Any SHA member interested in presenting a paper should contact the Secretary, Kevin Kilburn, asap by post: 158 Low Leighton Road, Low Leighton, New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire SK22 4JF. *KK/SW*

**SHA MEETINGS IN 2009**

Meetings not on page 3:

**Sat. 4 July** SHA Summer Picnic at Hanwell Community Observatory, Oxfordshire. Details TBC. See: [myweb.tiscali.co.uk/hanwellobservatory/index.htm](http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/hanwellobservatory/index.htm)

**Sat. 18 July** SHA AGM and Summer Conference, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. A joint meeting with the Scientific Instrument Society ([www.sis.org.uk](http://www.sis.org.uk)). Details TBC. Contact Gilbert Satterthwaite: [chair@shastro.org.uk](mailto:chair@shastro.org.uk).

**Sat. 31 October** SHA Autumn Conference, Dickens Room, Birmingham & Midland Institute ([www.bmi.org.uk](http://www.bmi.org.uk)). Theme: 'Astronomers Abroad' - see call for papers (left). Contact Kevin Kilburn: [secretary@shastro.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shastro.org.uk)

*Fuller details will be sent later.*

**COUNCIL MEETINGS 2009**

21 February: Burlington House, London. May: Yorkshire Museum, TBC. 12 September: BMI, Birmingham. November: Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge, TBC. *SW/CD*

**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE**

*Calendar in Brief 2009*

**Thurs. 1 January**

SHA Subscription Renewals due. Contact Peter Hingley [pdh@ras.org.uk](mailto:pdh@ras.org.uk)

**Sat. 28 March**

SHA Joint Meeting with RMetS, RAS, Burlington House, London.

**Sat. 18 April**

SHA David Dewhirst Meeting, IOA, Cambridge.

**Mon. 20 - Thur. 23 April**

European Week of Astronomy and Space Science, including RAS NAM etc: [www.jenam2009.eu](http://www.jenam2009.eu)

**Fri. 8 May**

Mars Before the Space Age, RAS, Burlington House, London.

**Sat. 4 July**

SHA Summer Picnic, Hanwell Community Observatory, Oxfordshire.

**Sat. 18 July**

SHA AGM & Summer Conference, NMM, Greenwich.

**Sat. 31 October**

SHA Autumn Conference, BMI.

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[www.shastro.org.uk](http://www.shastro.org.uk)

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