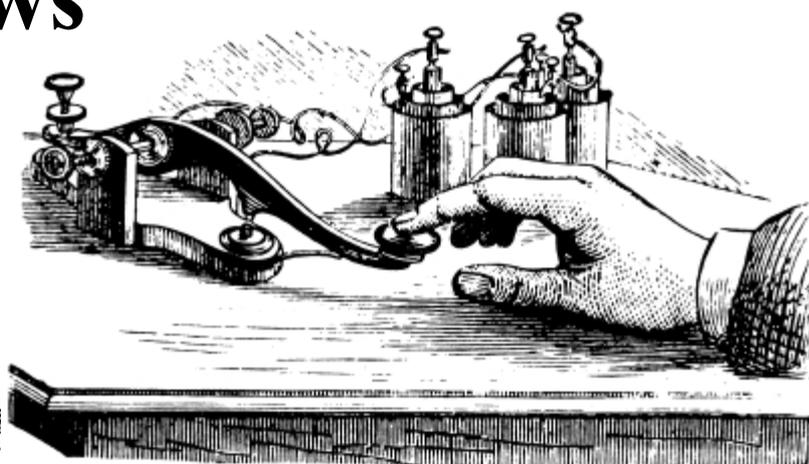


SHA eNews



Society for the History of Astronomy electronic news
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Editor: Clive Davenhall



Jeremy Grover, 1943-2013

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The cover shows Jerry Grover during the 2009 Summer Picnic held at the Hanwell Community Observatory, Oxfordshire on Saturday 4 July 2009. Photograph courtesy Stuart Williams.

Dates for the Diary

Imminent: 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.

Imminent: Tue. 7 May, 5:30 pm. The 2013 Annual Crawford Lecture in the History of Astronomy will be given by Professor Sven Dupré on *Galileo, the Telescope and the Renaissance Culture of Glass*, in the Teviot Lecture Theatre, Old Medical School, University of Edinburgh. Further details are given later in this *eNews* (non-SHA event).

Sat. 15 Jun. *Webb Deep-Sky Society AGM*, to be held at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge and will include some talks with a historical theme. See <http://www.webbdeepsky.com/news/AGM%202013%20Agenda.html> (non-SHA event).

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.historyofastrology.org.uk/conferences/CelestialMagic/index.html> (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).

Mon. 2 - Fri. 6 Sep. *SEAC 2013: Astronomy, mother of Civilization and Guide to the Future*. Annual meeting of the Société Européene pour L'Astronomie dans la Culture (SEAC), to be held in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in central Athens. See http://www.archeoastronomy.org/downloads/internet_rationale_seac-2013.pdf (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

Last Few Weeks: Until Fri. 27 Apr. *Signs, Symbols, Secrets: an Illustrated Guide to Alchemy*, currently running at the Science Museum, London. See *eNews*. 5, no.1, January 2013 for further details.

Last Few Weeks: Until Tue. 30 Apr. *Scottish Women of Science*, currently running at the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh. Further details are given later in this *eNews*.

Announcements

Jeremy Grover (2 July 1943 – 28 February 2013)

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Jeremy (Jerry) Grover, who was a Founder Member of the Society and then served as a Councillor continuously from its inception. His interest in the history of astronomy had been sparked by researches into his own family history, specifically his great great grandfather, the respected Victorian astronomer Charles Grover.



Latterly he had been, at Council's request, revising and bringing up to date the Register of the the Society's members, past and present (which was originally maintained by Ken Goward). He continued to work on this project during 2012, even as his health deteriorated. He will be greatly missed.

An obituary will appear in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

SHA news

Important and Urgent: Membership Subscription for 2013

If you did not renew your membership subscription by 31 March 2013 then, in accordance with the Society's Constitution, your membership will be deemed to have lapsed. Members who have not renewed will receive the forthcoming volume 7 of *The Antiquarian Astronomer* (which is currently with the printers), but will not receive any further print communication from the Society. *If you have inadvertently omitted to renew your membership then we urge you to do so as a matter of urgency.*

**THIS IS YOUR
LAST
CHANCE**

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.

Membership category	Amount
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

General Secretary

It is with the greatest sadness and regret that I have to report that Stuart Williams has resigned from Council and as General Secretary, with immediate effect.

Stuart has been a stalwart of the SHA since its inception, and undertaken many roles, including Secretary, Treasurer, and Webmaster. He bravely offered to carry on with his duties last October, despite difficult personal circumstances, but the time has come when he feels no longer able to continue. We are sad to see him go but understand his position entirely. We thank him for all he has done and hope to see him back on Council at a future date. He has said he is willing to stay on as Webmaster at the moment.

The current Membership Secretary, Bob Bower, has kindly offered to step into the breach as temporary General Secretary. He will therefore be the first point of contact for the Society for the time being. His e-mail remains membership@shastro.org.uk.

*Madeline Cox,
Chairman.*

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.

Imminent: 2013 Spring Conference

The SHA Spring Conference is now just a few weeks away. It will be held on **Saturday 20 April** in the Quaker Meeting House, Friargate, in the historic city of York. In a late change to the programme Ken Elliott is now unable to give his talk due to unforeseen circumstances (though he hopes to present it to the Society at a subsequent meeting) and Lee MacDonald has kindly stepped in with a replacement. The final 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 Lee MacDonald, *Isaac Roberts, E.E. Barnard, and the Nebulae*
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://www.yorkquakers.org.uk/friargatequakerm.html>

Directions and Parking

The Quaker Meeting House has kindly provided the following directions and information about parking.

Address: Friargate, York, YO1 9RL
Telephone and fax: 01904 624065
E-mail: friargate@yorkquakers.org.uk

If travelling by car, you can use the Park and Ride. The McArthur Glen terminus (York ring road A64 S/E) ’bus brings you to a stop near the Fire Station on Clifford Street. When you get off the ’bus, head into the city centre. Friargate is a short walk away, off Clifford Street, on the right.

The Grimston Bar Park and Ride terminus (Ring road A64 S/E) is at Pavement (off Parliament Street and Piccadilly and outside Marks and Spencer's). From here you walk towards Coppergate which will be on your left, to the end; and turn left into Castlegate (Greenwoods men's shop is on the corner). Friargate is off Castlegate, on your right.

The nearest car park is close to the junction of Tower Street and Castlegate. Castlegate is only accessible by car from either Friargate or Tower Street. Approach the car park from Tower Street.

Blue badge holders may park either on Castlegate (Friargate is access only) or outside the Hilton Hotel on Tower Street.

If coming by train, when leaving the station on foot turn left past the Royal York Hotel. At the traffic lights go straight on. Continue under the walls and over Lendal bridge. Take the next turning right onto Lendal. Go past the Post Office and Mayor's residence (on your right) and straight down Coney Street. At the end of Coney Street (you will be facing Waterstone's) carry straight on (you will have left the pedestrian precinct) and past Waterstone's and a newsagent on your left. At the next left use the zebra crossing to cross the road. You will be facing Castlegate. Friargate is off Castlegate, on your right.

If you have access to the Internet, more information is available at:

<http://www.visit-york.org/information/maps-of-york.aspx>

For people driving - and even for general use in the UK, there is now a Web site called Parkopedia UK – yes, it really does exist – and is a very useful tool for navigating parking spaces with prices too.

2013 Summer Picnic

The 2013 SHA Summer Picnic will be held on Saturday 29 June 2013 at the University of London Observatory (ULO) in Mill Hill, North London. The visit will include an opportunity to inspect the Observatory's instruments and equipment, both historic and modern.

The ULO was founded in 1928 after Mr J.G. Wilson donated his 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. 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. For further details see Roger Hutchins' *British University Observatories 1772-1939* (2008), pp413-17.

The event will start around noon with the picnic being held on the Observatory's back lawn. You should bring your own lunch and soft drinks, and also something to sit on. A hot drink will be provided. In the event of inclement weather the picnic will be held indoors.

Around 1:00 pm Dr Mike Dworetsky of ULO will give a presentation and then the party will split into two groups for tours. We hope that the Observatory Manager, Dr Peter Thomas, who has a keen interest in old telescopes and was responsible for the renovation and computerisation of the ULO's telescopes, will be present. The visit will finish around 4:00 pm.

Tickets are £10 per person and ***must be booked in advance***. The event is strictly limited to 35 attendees and tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Early booking is strongly recommended. 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.

The Observatory is accessed on foot, *via* the pavement along the west side of the A1/A41/ Watford Way dual carriageway. Some disabled car-parking is available in the Observatory grounds, but is strictly by prior arrangement only. Contact Roger Hutchins (details above) in the first instance. Cars can be left in the free car park about a quarter of a mile away on Daws Lane (NW7 4SL), which intersects the southbound carriageway just beyond the Mill Hill Circus, at the Esso service station on the A1 (cross the A1 by pedestrian subway).

The Observatory can be reached by train or omnibus. There is no nearby underground station. From central London the most convenient route is probably to take the train from St Pancras. *Do not go to Mill Hill East tube station [a mistake I made the first time I visited, making me several hours late for an interview – not an auspicious start. – Ed.]* For further directions see:

<http://www.ulo.ucl.ac.uk/about-ulo/find-us/>

Further information about the Observatory, including its history, can be found at URL:

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

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 so 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>

Survey Competition

Contributed by Roger Jones, Survey Coordinator.

Last year we ran a competition to encourage members to contribute to our *Survey of Astronomical History*, the prize going to the person who had contributed most to this important work. I am pleased to announce that the winner is Dr Mike Leggett, who is coordinator for no less than four counties: Buckinghamshire, Lincoln, Rutland and the soon to be published Norfolk. In addition to the research he has carried out on these counties, and the updates he continues to provide, Mike regularly gives talks on his findings and promotes the Survey at events all over the country. A presentation will take place at our conference in York on 20 April (see above).

Council has decided to run this competition again this year, so members have until March 2014 to submit stubs or better still adopt a county for a chance to win. Please take a look at our new Web site. It can be accessed from the menu on our main Web site at:

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

or directly at

<http://shasurvey.wordpress.com>

Council Meetings in 2012

The following Council meeting has been held during 2013:

Sat. 9 February.

The following Council meetings are scheduled for the remainder of the year:

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*).

SHA Web site

The URL of the Society's Web site is:

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

which supersedes any other URL previously advised.

The Antiquarian Astronomer

The next issue of *The Antiquarian Astronomer*, volume 7, is currently being printed and will be circulated to members during within the next few weeks.

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. 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.

Contents lists and, in many cases, the complete text, for back issues of the *Bulletin* are available from the 'Publications' page of the Society's Web site.

Other news

Hevelius Correspondence Project

The *Hevelius Correspondence Project* is an international (French/German/Polish/Belgian) research initiative which aims to compile a complete edition of the correspondence of the seventeenth century Gdansk Astronomer Johannes Hevelius. For brief details see:

<http://www.aihs-iahs.org/en/projects/hevelius>

Most of Hevelius' letters are now in the Library of the Observatoire de Paris or the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. However, there are some additional letters elsewhere. The Project is keen to include this material and to this end Klaus-Dieter Herbst is compiling a survey of these scattered items. If you know of any such material he would be most pleased to hear from you, and can be contacted by e-mail at klaus-dieter-herbst@t-online.de.

***Imminent:* Crawford Lecture in the History of Astronomy**

The 2013 Annual Crawford Lecture in the History of Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh will be given by Professor Sven Dupré on *Galileo, the Telescope and the Renaissance Culture of Glass*, in the Teviot Lecture Theatre, Old Medical School, University of Edinburgh. The lecture will take place at 5:30 pm on **Tuesday 7 May** in the Teviot Lecture Theatre, Doorway 5, Old Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG. See:

www.ed.ac.uk/maps/buildings/medical-school

This event is ticketed but free. Tickets must be booked in advance and can be reserved at URL:

<http://crawfordlecture2013-es2005.eventbrite.co.uk/?rank=1>

Prof. Dupré has kindly provided the following abstract for his talk:

This lecture situates Galileo optician (especially his work on the telescope) within the cultures of glass in which he lived – between the furnaces of the glassmakers on the island of Murano near Venice and the, alchemical laboratories connected to the Medici court, first and foremost the Casino di San Marco in Florence, which produced the first printed treatise on glass-making, Antonio Neri's, *L'arte vetraria* (1612). Galileo's connections with the world of glass did not stop at the level of technology transfer. Glass was also central to shaping his artistic tastes and in directing his decisions in questions of astronomy and natural philosophy. In addressing the problem of lunar light and substance, Galileo elaborated notions of light connecting Northern art and Venetian glass, equally popular in the artistic climate of the Medici court.

***Last Few Weeks:* Exhibition: Scottish Women of Science**

The National Library of Scotland is currently presenting the exhibition *Scottish Women of Science* as part of its 'Treasures' series which puts less-known items from its collections on public display. The exhibition runs until 30 April in the Library's main premises on George IV Bridge, Edinburgh and is free to attend.

The exhibition features material on eleven early Scottish women scientists. The individuals featured worked in a variety of disciplines, but two notable astronomers are included: Mary Somerville (1780-1872) the renowned mathematician, astronomer and physicist and Williamina Fleming (1857-1911) who was born in Dundee, though she did the work on stellar classification for which she is remembered at Harvard College in the United States.

Anyone considering visiting should be aware, particularly before undertaking a long journey, that though interesting, the exhibition is quite small and less than an hour is probably adequate to view it. Further information is available at URL:

<http://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/treasures>

The Library's Web site has details of opening times, directions *etc*:

<http://www.nls.uk/>

eNews admin

Next Issue

The next issue will be circulated around 1 July 2013.

Contributions for inclusion in this issue should reach me by 14 June 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.

Contact Details



All correspondence regarding the *eNews* or *Bulletin* should be sent to:
Clive Davenhall, 30, Millar Crescent, Morningside, Edinburgh, EH10 5HH, UK.
e-mail: newsletter@shastro.org.uk

All correspondence regarding *The Antiquarian Astronomer* should be sent to:
Kevin L. Johnson, 38, Tuns Hill Cottages, Reading, RG6 1NB, UK.
e-mail: theaa@shastro.org.uk

Inquiries regarding membership should be sent to the Membership Secretary:
Bob Bower, Tigh Na Bruaich, Port Logan, Stranraer, DG9 9NE, UK.
e-mail: membership@shastro.org.uk

All inquiries relating to meetings should be sent to:
Madeline Cox, 4, Rutland Close, Warsop, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG20 0DY, UK.
e-mail: chair@shastro.org.uk

General Communications to the Society should be sent to the Acting General Secretary:
Bob Bower, Tigh Na Bruaich, Port Logan, Stranraer, DG9 9NE, UK.
e-mail: membership@shastro.org.uk

Note change following Stuart Williams' resignation (see p6).

SHA Web site: <http://www.shastro.org.uk/>