



# SHA e-News

*Society for the History of Astronomy*

Volume 7, no.2, April 2015.

Editor: David Sellers

## PICNIC UNDER THE APPLE TREE



### SHA Summer Picnic at Woolsthorpe Manor, Newton's childhood home

**Sat 4th July 2015**

Come and join us at the SHA Summer Picnic at [Woolsthorpe Manor](#), Lincolnshire. Owned now by the National Trust, the property is typical of a small provincial manor house of the late 16th or early 17th century: the home of comfortably-off yeoman farmers. In one important way, however, Woolsthorpe is unique. On Christmas Day 1642 it was the birthplace of the greatest genius of the age and one of the most influential scientists of all time: Isaac Newton.

During the afternoon members will benefit from guided tours around the house: See the rooms where Newton grew up, the graffiti written on the walls by him, the location of his original experiments on the spectrum of sunlight, and the place where he began his masterpiece, the *Principia Mathematica* (1687).

The Science Discovery Centre at Woolsthorpe is also worth visiting. Try your hand at experiments with lenses and gravity!

After the picnic and guided tours there will be a short walk to the medieval church of St John the Baptist in Colsterworth. Newton was baptised here on 1 January

1643. High up and hidden behind the organ is a sundial he is said to have carved with a penknife when he was only nine years old.

## DEATH OF SHA CHAIR

Members of the SHA will be aware of the untimely death of SHA Chair, Madeline Cox. Madeline died in her sleep on 13th January 2015. She was a Founder Member of the SHA in 2002, and Council Member and Librarian. She took over the Chair in 2010 and was making calls and emails on SHA business up to the very eve of her death. By her enthusiasm and initiatives, and the pleasure she showed in meeting and dealing with members, she provided splendid leadership. A full obituary will appear in the forthcoming issue of the SHA Bulletin (no.24).

Madeline's funeral was held at the church of St Peter and St Paul in Warsop (Notts.) on 10th February. The church was packed with mourners, including representatives of the SHA Council and membership. Allan Chapman (SHA Honorary President) gave a moving eulogy.



**Madeline Cox (1948-2015)**

## FUTURE SHA MEETINGS

### 2015 SUMMER PICNIC

The summer picnic will be on Saturday **4th July 2015** at [Woolsthorpe Manor](#) (Newton's house), Water Lane, Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG33 5PD and will include a tour of the house and a visit to nearby [Colsterworth Church](#).

#### Programme

- 12.00** Meet at Woolsthorpe Manor
- 12.30 - 13.30** Picnic outside on the lawn
- 13.30 - 14.30** Guided tour of the house
- 14.30 - 16.00** Short walk to Colsterworth Church

Parking is free. There will be a charge to cover group entry and guided tour (£5.95 per head). Interested members should let Kevin Kilburn ([kevinkilburn@sky.com](mailto:kevinkilburn@sky.com)) have their names before 31st May.

### 2015 AGM / AUTUMN CONFERENCE

The Annual General Meeting & Autumn Conference for this year will be held at the Birmingham & Midlands Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS, on **Sat. 31 October 2015**, 9.30 - 17.00. Confirmed speakers so far include:

Allan Chapman on *Sir John Herschel*

Laura Carroll on *Derbyshire Astronomers* (Madeline Cox's presentation)

Phil Barnard on *Chance Bros: Lens Makers*

Members are encouraged to give presentations, or exhibit posters relating to their research, at this and future SHA events and anyone wishing to do so should should contact Kevin Kilburn ([kevinkilburn@sky.com](mailto:kevinkilburn@sky.com)) in the first instance.

### 2016 SPRING CONFERENCE

The 2016 SHA Spring Conference will held in Bath, on Sat. 2nd April 2016, jointly with the William Herschel Society, at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution . Programme to be confirmed soon.

### 2016 AGM / AUTUMN CONFERENCE

The Annual General Meeting & Autumn Conference for 2016 will be held at the Birmingham & Midlands Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS on **Sat 29 October 2016**, 9.30 - 17.00.

## SHA COUNCIL

The current SHA Officers & Council are:

### Honorary Council Members

**Hon President** Dr Allan Chapman  
**Hon Vice-Pres.** Dr Michael Hoskin  
**Hon Vice-Pres.** Prof. Sir Arnold Wolfendale,FRS

### Council Members

**Chairman** Vacant  
**Vice-Chairman (& Events Coordinator)** Kevin Kilburn  
**General & Membership Secretary** Bob Bower  
**Treasurer** Roger Hutchins  
**Editor, SHA Bulletin** Clive Davenhall  
**Editor, SHA e-News** David Sellers  
**Editor, Antiquarian Astronomer** Ian Ridpath  
**Deputy Editor, Antiquarian Astronomer** Kevin Johnson  
**Publicity Officer** Mike Leggett

### Co-opted Officers & Members

**Archivist** Mark Hurn  
**Online Editor/Librarian** Stuart Williams  
**Survey Co-ordinator** Kevin Johnson  
**Co-opted member** Laura Carroll

### SHA COUNCIL MEETINGS

Future meetings of the SHA Council are scheduled as follows:

- 2015 Jun 6 Manchester (Godlee Observatory)
- 2015 Sep 12 Birmingham (BMI)
- 2015 Nov 21 London (Science Museum)

SHA members are very welcome to attend Council meetings as observers. Please let the General Secretary know in advance, if you wish to do so.

## JACKSON-GWILT MEDAL

Shortly after the publication of the last e-News the RAS announced that our Honorary President, Dr Allan Chapman, was the winner of its 2015 Jackson-Gwilt Medal for his contributions to the History of Astronomy. Allan was nominated by the SHA for this well-deserved honour.

Through his extensive public lecturing, publications and television appearances Allan has brought astronomical history to new audiences. In doing so he has raised the profile of the history of astronomy and stimulated historical research.

# SHA PUBLICATIONS

## SHA e-NEWS

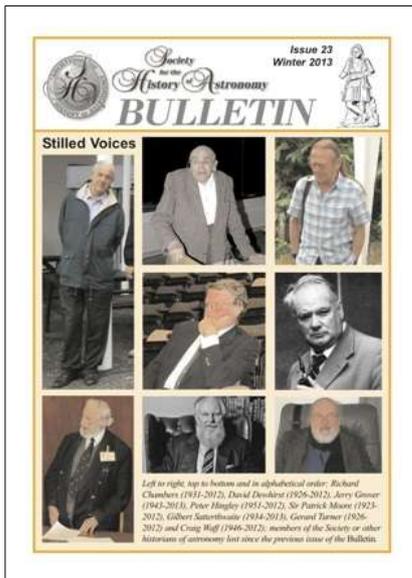
The next issue of the *e-NEWS* is due in early July 2015. If you know of any meetings, publications, exhibitions or events pertaining to the history of astronomy that might interest other members, please email brief details to the editor.



Back issues and guidelines for contributions are available from the [e-News web page](#).

## SHA BULLETIN

Unfortunately, issue 24 of the SHA Bulletin is now seriously overdue, for which we apologise. Hopefully, it will be distributed soon and will have been worth the wait. It will contain two obituaries that had to be held



over from issue 23 and all the usual material: news, meeting reports, articles, book reviews etc. Look out also for the winning essay in the 'Bookshop Competition' that was announced in a previous e-News! Contributions to the Bulletin are most welcome,

including letters which can be on any aspect of the Society or the history of astronomy.

Back issues and guidelines for contributions are available from the [Bulletin's web page](#).

It is usually prudent to check with the Editor before preparing items where duplication is a possibility (e.g. book reviews). Back Issues of the *Bulletin* (and its predecessor: *SHA Newsletter*) are now indexed on the Abstract service of SAO/ NASA. Enter SHAN as the "Journal Code" at

[http://adsabs.harvard.edu/bib\\_abs.html](http://adsabs.harvard.edu/bib_abs.html)

It is hoped that in the near future, scanned copies of the original articles will be accessible in the same way.

## THE ANTIQUARIAN ASTRONOMER

Issue 9 of *The Antiquarian Astronomer*, the Society's refereed journal, is due to be published in mid-2015.



Members and others wishing to submit material for future issues of the *Antiquarian Astronomer* should contact the Editor, Ian Ridpath at [ian@ianridpath.com](mailto:ian@ianridpath.com). [Guidance for authors](#) can be found on our website.

In future, as a result of a Council decision on 13 Sep 2014, any member having a paper published in the *Antiquarian Astronomer* will receive **free membership of the SHA for one year**. Non-members having a paper published will be offered a year's complimentary membership of the SHA.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new and re-joined members, who have come aboard since the AGM last October:

Oliver Albery, Stewart Bradshaw, Michael Double, Paul R. Harper, Catherine Hohenkerk, Martin Ince, Paul James, Geoffrey King, James Kyle, Bill Leatherbarrow, Dennis Osborne, Huw Price, David Rayment, Chris Seymour, Warren Smith, John Timmins, Karen Wilson, Observatoire De Paris

*Kevin Kilburn (Acting Chair)*

## LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

Recent additions to the SHA Library include:

### Donations

Ptolemy, Claudius *The Almagest: Introduction to the Mathematics of the Heaven*, Ed. by William H. Donahue (Green Lion Press, 2014). Donated by David Sellers

49 boxes of books and other items from the library of the late Gilbert Satterthwaite (past SHA President).

Madeline Cox, our late President, has bequeathed her library to the Society. Details will be included in a future issue of e-News.

A 74-page updated [catalogue](#) (Oct 2014) of the thousands of items held by the SHA Library is available on the Society website.



Birmingham and Midland Institute, home of the SHA Library

The [Sir Robert Ball Library](#) of the SHA is located at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (BMI), 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS—just 10 mins walk from New St and Snow Hill stations.

If you are a member of the SHA and you wish to consult or borrow any items, please arrange a visit in advance with the Librarian: [library@shastro.org.uk](mailto:library@shastro.org.uk). The previous postal loan system has now been discontinued.

### Open Days

Our new Librarian, Stuart Williams, will be hosting the **next open afternoon** on Saturday 9th May 2015 to coincide with the *BAA Meteor Section's* meeting at the BMI. Meeting attendees and, of course, SHA members will be very welcome to come and have a look around this impressive resource. It is intended that there be an increased number of open days per year.

## GREENWICH CONFERENCE SUCCESS

The joint SHA/BAA Historical Section Conference at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich on 28th March 2015 was a resounding success.

More than 80 people heard fascinating and varied presentations. Talks were given by William Sheehan (on *changing perceptions of Mars*), Jay Pasachoff (on *the recent solar eclipse, Simon Marius and Galileo*), Stuart Clark (on *Richard Carrington and the 1859 solar flare*), Bob Marriott (on *William & William Rutter Dawes*), Kevin Johnson (on *the SHA Survey*), and Tony Kinder (on *the BAA historical database*).

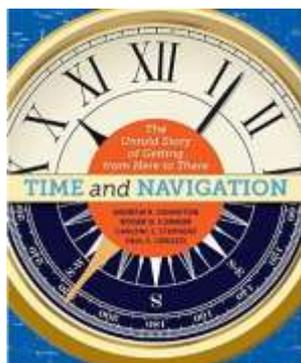
Five new members for the SHA were recruited at the event.



SHA & BAA members at the Greenwich joint Spring Conference 2015

## FORTHCOMING BOOKS NOTICED

**[Time and Navigation: The Untold Story of Getting from Here to There](#)**, by Andrew K. Johnston, Roger D. Connor, Carlene E. Stephens, Paul E. Ceruzzi (Smithsonian Books), May 2015, pp.224 (hardback, £24.99), ISBN 9781588344915

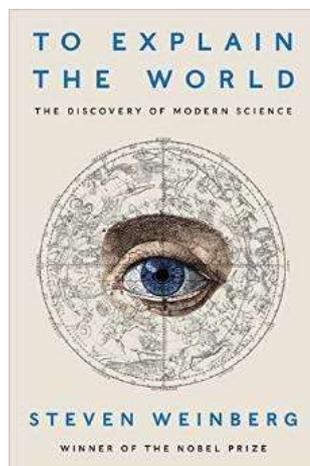


The companion book to the National Air and Space Museum (Washington, DC) [exhibition of the same name](#).

Today we use smartphones and GPS, but navigating has not always been so easy.

Seafarers in the Age of Exploration used dead reckoning and celestial navigation; later innovations such as sextants and marine chronometers honed these techniques by measuring latitude and longitude. Charles Lindbergh used a bubble sextant on his record-breaking flights. World War II led to the development of new flight technologies, notably radio navigation. These forms of navigation were extended and enhanced when explorers began guiding spacecraft into space and across the solar system. This book tells the story of navigation to help us understand where we have been and how we got there so that we can understand where we are going.

**[To Explain the World: The Discovery of Modern Science](#)**, Steven Weinberg (Allen Lane), Feb.2015, pp.432 (hardback, £20.00), ISBN 9780241196625



In *To Explain the World*, pre-eminent theoretical physicist Steven Weinberg offers a rich and irreverent history of science from a particular perspective—that of a practising scientist. Moving from ancient Miletus to medieval Baghdad to Oxford, and from the Museum of Alexandria to

the Royal Society of London, he shows that the scientists of the past not only did not understand what

we understand about the world - they did not understand what there is to understand. Yet eventually, through the struggle to solve such mysteries as the backward movement of the planets and the rise and fall of tides, the modern discipline of science emerged.

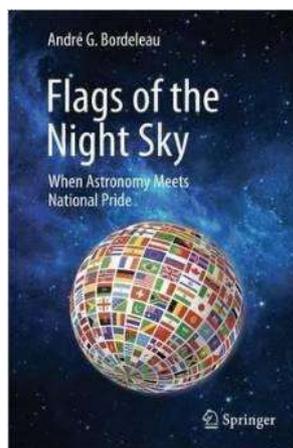
**[Magister Rheticus und seine Schulgesellen](#)** (in German), by Karl Heinz Burmeister (Uvk Verlags Gmbh), Feb.2015, pp.700 (hardback, £44.42), ISBN 9783867645546



Commemorative volume for the 500th birthday of Copernicus' first pupil.

Included are sketches of the life of Rheticus' teachers, colleagues and students - so far as they are known. It aims to prepare the way for a later biography.

**[Flags of the Night Sky: When Astronomy meets National Pride](#)**, by André G. Bordeleau (Springer), 2014, pp.341 (paperback, £19.95), ISBN 9781461409281



Many national flags display astronomical features – Sun, Moon, stars – but are they really based on existing astronomical objects? The United States flag sports 50 stars, one for each state, however none of them are linked to real stars. Further, the lunar crescent is often shaped like the Sun being eclipsed

by the Moon. At times, stars are seen right next to the crescent, where the darkened disc of the moon should be! This book will present true astronomical objects and patterns highlighted on national flags and link informative capsules about these objects to the political reasons why they were chosen to adorn such an important symbol.

**Note:** *The descriptions of the books above are largely taken from the publishers. They are not reviews and do not imply endorsement by the SHA.*

## SHA RESEARCH GRANTS

SHA Small Research Grants are still available for the period **1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015** and applications are solicited. These grants are made available to provide limited financial support for members' research.

For 2014/15 a total sum of £1000 has been set aside to provide research grants and members may submit applications for up to this amount. Grants may be used to support research in any aspect of the history of astronomy, broadly understood, and may be used to fund any expenses incurred while pursuing such a research project. The grants are available only to SHA members in good standing.

Links to the [application form and regulations](#) for applicants are available on the Society's Web site. Applications must be made using the application form. Appended to the regulations are some guidelines for completing the case for support that forms part of every application.

Applications will be judged by the SHA Awards Committee whose decision is final.

Successful applicants should note that items claimed for reimbursement must be accompanied by receipts to the full value of the item.

Completed applications should be sent to the SHA Acting-Chairman, Kevin Kilburn ([kevinkilburn@sky.com](mailto:kevinkilburn@sky.com))

### SHA NEEDS A TREASURER AND NEW TALENT FOR COUNCIL IN OCTOBER

Despite the hammer blow of losing Madeline as Chairman, and Roger Jones from the Survey, the Society continues as strongly as before. This is only because it has been very fortunate in first-rate volunteers stepping up to the mark when needed.

When Clive Davenhall needed to pass on the editorship of E-News, David Sellers took it on to great effect. He has also been a vital new voice on Council. Our old friend Stuart Williams has taken over Madeline's Library, but is unable to serve on Council. When Kevin Johnson found it essential to stand down as Editor of the AA, we were delighted to have Ian Ridpath bring a wealth of experience to take that on last year, but he too can not manage the Council meetings. Kevin has now recently taken over the Survey.

Laura Carroll came to the February Council lunch and meeting, liked how she found Council and the friendly but effective way it debated, and allowed herself to be co-opted to Council. She is

ready to do her bit and is willing to be nominated in October for the General Secretaryship. Mike Shaw and John Chuter will be coming to the next Council meeting on 6 June for a similar exploratory session. Mike has expressed an interest in the Membership Secretary post. Hopefully, therefore, we will be able to release Bob Bower from both of these posts at the AGM in October, which will allow him to stand for election as Chairman.

However, we have other important Council changes to consider. After five years Roger Hutchins finds that he needs to pass on the job of Treasurer at the AGM in October. The Society is relatively small and is financially very sound. Consequently, the Treasurer's job is low in volume, not stressed, and since last year he/she has access as needed to a friendly accountant. This is a Council post, and Council always benefits from new opinions and energy.

Council meets four times a year (usually twice in Birmingham, twice in Manchester or London), plus the AGM at the Autumn Conference. It is desirable but not essential to attend every meeting. Travel expenses can be defrayed, Council always has a convivial pub lunch beforehand (met by the David Dewhirst bequest, because he recognised how very valuable that aspect is in promoting friendships and fuller discussion than the afternoon meetings have time for).

Any member is very welcome to join us—as Laura did and Mike and John will be doing—for a lunch and meeting, without any prior commitment whatever, to see what we're like and how Council operates. He/she could then consider taking on a defined and limited role that was of particular interest, or initially serve without portfolio since not least Council is very aware of the need for representation, ideas and fresh input. Please, don't wait for others, have a chat to find out more from one of us by emailing [kevinkilburn@sky.com](mailto:kevinkilburn@sky.com) or Bob Bower [robert@rbower.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:robert@rbower.orangehome.co.uk), or [roger.hutchins@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.hutchins@btinternet.com) and we will contact you to arrange a call back. Then you could come along—6 June (Godlee Observatory, Manchester) or 12 September (Birmingham)—and see whether you too would enjoy a role while helping your Society along. The Society is prepared to defray the cost of your attendance.

*Roger Hutchins (Treasurer)*

## WEB-LINK NOTICED

### Replicas and Restorations of Early Instruments

[This excellent website](#) commemorates the retirement of Richard A. Paselk from Humboldt State University (California) and includes images of his replicas and/or interpretations of medieval astronomical instruments

"I have been interested in ancient scientific instruments for most of my adult life", says Richard, "but had no access to them here on the North Coast, so I decided to make some replicas/models myself. My models are based on pictures, images in artworks and contemporary and modern descriptions as available. Though initially made for my own pleasure, I quickly began incorporating them into talks and lectures for University and Community groups. Many of the models and restored navigational instruments I use to support lectures and workshops are displayed here. Reproductions of paintings showing original pieces in use are included for color and context, when available."

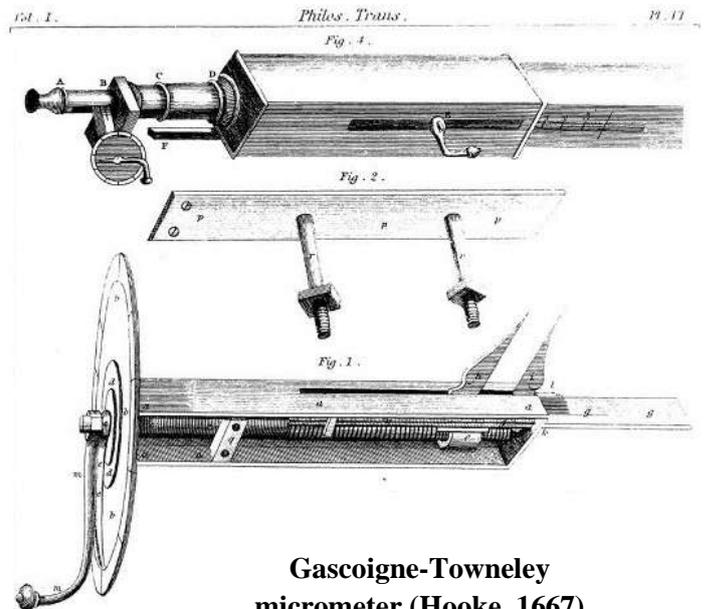
## WILLIAM GASCOIGNE'S MICROMETER RECREATED

Apart from the drawings made by Robert Hooke, published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society in 1667 (see above right), no images survive of the famous telescope micrometer invented by William Gascoigne (c.1612-44).

Now, arising like a long-extinct creature born again in Jurassic Park, a superb replica of the instrument - faithful to the original in almost every respect - has surfaced. It was painstakingly engineered by Joe LaCour, from the precision mechanical and optical engineering company, [KineOptics](#), in Sequim, Washington State, USA (see below).



Joe LaCour engraving the micrometer plate



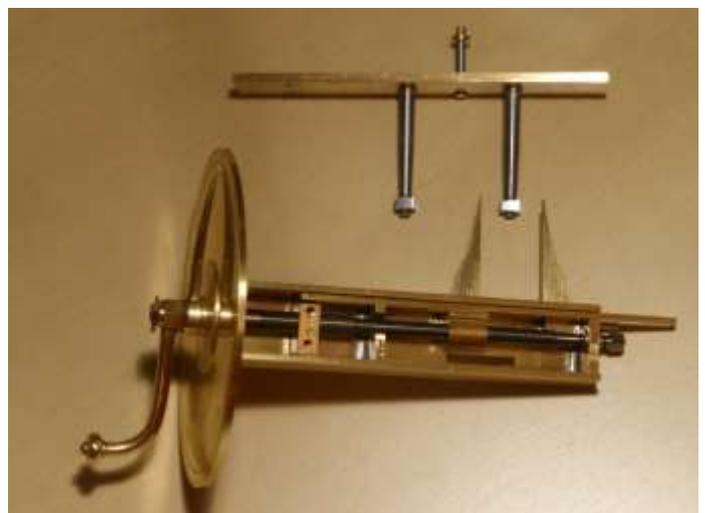
Gascoigne-Towneley micrometer (Hooke, 1667)

Joe, a long-time amateur astronomer, machinist and watch/clock maker, collaborated with SHA Council member, David Sellers (author of a recent book on Gascoigne\*), in developing the specification. It is based on the version of Gascoigne's micrometer that was sent to the Royal Society by Richard Towneley, who was anxious to prove the priority of Gascoigne following the re-invention of the device by the French astronomer Adrien Auzout more than twenty years after Gascoigne's death on the Civil War battlefield at Marston Moor.

All known sources have been scoured in the effort to ensure authenticity - including a hitherto unpublished description in Latin by Towneley himself.

The replicas (three in total) were completed in March and will be used for educational purposes in the UK and USA.

\*Sellers, D., *In Search of William Gascoigne: seventeenth century astronomer* (Springer, 2012)



The replica micrometer (approx. 12 cm long)

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

SHA members introduce themselves and their interests

In this issue: *Laura Carroll (Blackburn, Lancashire)*

### How did you find the SHA, and does it meet your needs?

It was some time ago, so from what I can remember it was through a search engine when I was looking for astronomy societies to join. As a lover of both history and astronomy the *SHA* was perfect. I have memories of attending my first meeting at Birmingham, listening to Dr Allan Chapman for the first time and being totally transfixed.

I love the *SHA* summer picnics, particularly when some members have really cut a dash dressed in period costume. Who needs Darcy? The organised trips out have given me a chance to visit observatories and other places of interest I might normally have missed. It's also lovely to have time to chat socially with members from across the UK.

### Do you have a special area of interest in history of astronomy?

I find comets, asteroids and eclipses particularly exciting with their obvious links between the present and the past. Many events have been well documented throughout history and the reaction of people to their occurrences is fascinating.

### What got you hooked on that?

Probably from seeing tangerine coloured moons when I was young and not really having anyone to explain what was happening. Before the internet, finding information was a lengthy process, I think my life would be very different today if I'd been able to answer all my questions instantly when I was young.

### What did you discover in that area that enthuses you most?

Discovering the evidence of impact craters on Earth. We have Meteor Crater in Arizona, which I've been lucky enough to visit. Also, more local incidences such as the Appley Bridge Meteor. Now we have access to images from space that show evidence of others. Solar eclipses are the most memorable experiences of my life; I've been a spectator at two total ones, Cornwall and Turkey. Annular eclipses can be almost as spectacular in their own way. Waiting in the darkness for dawn and the reward of the most beautiful rose pink, partially eclipsed, sun over a misty sea at Filey was worth the overnight drive. Our most recent partial brought the normal timetable at my school, Medlock Community Primary, to a standstill. It was such a



delight experiencing the weather changes outside with the older children as they formed images of the sun with their pinhole cameras and colanders. I managed to rush back inside to be with year two as the watched totality on the live link. Seeing them excited and clapping as we viewed the diamond rings is something I'll remember forever.

### Do you actively research, or prefer being an armchair scholar?

Somewhere between the two really I love astronomical adventures, so not quite a cosmos potato. The *SHA*, *BAA* and my local society, *Bolton Astronomical Society*, have all arranged trips I've loved to attend whenever possible. My heart still aches from missing the *SHA*'s visit to meet the late Sir Patrick at his home in Selsey, as I was working abroad. A memorable trip to Ireland, with the *BAA*, several years ago combined Neolithic Newgrange, Birr Castle and a present day observatory. Independent outings have included a visit to the William Herschel Museum in Bath where you can walk on the very flagstones he cracked when molten metal spilled onto them. When it comes to actual written research, I haven't progressed beyond gathering information to present talks for *BAS*. Stonyhurst College is close to where I

live and has history relating to its observatory, so perhaps I should set myself a challenge and get started.

### **If you're thrown out of the library balloon, what one book would you grab to save?**

Sadly, I can't remember its name. I bought it from a book club at school and it was about the discovery of Pluto. It read like a detective story and I remember hiding it behind my textbooks and reading it whenever I could. It's one of the reasons I became so interested in astronomy, I just couldn't put it down. When I visited Flagstaff Observatory I could still remember how gripped I was, all those years ago, when I was looking at the actual glass photographic plates that proved Pluto existed. Never in my wildest dreams, at fourteen, did I ever expect to be standing in front of them. When Pluto was reclassified I was so disappointed, it had been the biggest planet in my life.

### **What one thing would you most like the SHA to do better or differently?**

Crumbs, that's a difficult one as *SHA* is my favourite society. If I was to have a wish list, I really would love more outings. Perhaps, we could have a weekend event or an annual dinner with a speaker. The latter could be dedicated to Madeline, and then every year we could specially remember what a wonderful lady she was.

## **SHA SURVEY OF ASTRONOMICAL HISTORY**

Due to the unfortunate illness of Roger Jones, the management of the SHA Survey of Astronomical History has been taken over by Kevin Johnson.

Roger, a Founder Member of SHA, has made an immense contribution to our survey of astronomical history and to the Society as a whole. His work has now been acknowledged with the well-deserved award of honorary membership (announced at the Spring Conference in Greenwich).

The survey website now includes entries for 750+ astronomers. The Survey aims to reveal the depth of local history of astronomy across the UK and is available both [online](#) and at the SHA's library in Birmingham.

## **SHA PUBLICITY STALLS**

The SHA was represented with a publicity stall at several major astronomical events in 2014-15

including the **FAS Convention and AGM** and the **Leeds Astromeet**. In March this year we also had a stall at the **Institute of Astronomy Open Day**.

Forthcoming astro-events at which we hope to be present include the **Webb Society Convention** (IoA, Cambridge) on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

If you will be at such events or live in the area and could spare an hour or two to help on a stall, it would be much appreciated. In particular, we would like volunteers to look after a stall at the **Starfest Convention** (Chelmsford, Sat. 17th October 2015). For further information or offers of help, contact the Publicity Officer, Mike Leggett ([leggett189@btinternet.com](mailto:leggett189@btinternet.com)).

A new tri-part full-colour SHA publicity leaflet is currently in production.



**SHA stall ready for the Institute of Astronomy  
Open Afternoon in Cambridge on 21 Mar 2015**

(photo: Mark Hurn)

## **IMPORTANT BEQUEST**

Madeline Cox, the sorely missed Chair of the Society has bequeathed her library and a substantial portion of her estate to the SHA.

This was quite unexpected and members of the Council were taken aback by an act of such great generosity. Treasurer, Roger Hutchins, reporting the news, said: "There could be no clearer indication of Madeline's affection for the Society and her belief in what it does".

## OTHER MEETINGS & EXHIBITIONS NOTICED (non-SHA)

### Harrison Decoded: Towards a Perfect Pendulum Clock

18 April 2015 (10.30-16.30) at the National Maritime Museum (Ground floor, Lecture Theatre).

Following on from the successful Decoding Harrison conference in July 2014, the NMM reflects on the successes of the Burgess 'B' Clock and asks 'What next?' for this astounding timekeeper.

[A day of talks and discussions](#), including a visit to the Royal Observatory Greenwich and a behind-the-scenes look at the Horology workshop (£45 fee).

### 12th Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop - NDXII (USA)

The [Twelfth Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop](#) is scheduled for 24–28 Jun 2015 at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. Details given in previous issue of SHA e-News.

### The 9<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena (INSAP IX)

This year's [INSAP conference](#) is on August 23–28 2015, at Gresham College, London. Details given in previous issue of SHA e-News.

### Mayas: revelation of an endless time (Liverpool)

Opening on 19 June and running until 18 October 2015 at the World Museum in Liverpool, [this free exhibition](#) looks back thousands of years through time to the Mesoamerican civilisation of the ancient Maya.

Visitors will take an illuminating journey to an age of warriors, astronomy, and shamanic rituals.

What made the ancient Mayas look to the stars? Why was their civilisation so powerful? How did they communicate?.

Through 385 stunning objects from museums and historical sites in Mexico the exhibition explores this extraordinary people whose culture is still alive today.

The exhibition has been produced by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) in Mexico. It is part of the 2015 'Year of Mexico in the United Kingdom' and 'Year of the United Kingdom in Mexico'.

### 24th Annual Convention of the Antique Telescope Society

9–12 Oct. at the Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton, CA (USA).

This will include side trips to Ricard Observatory, Chabot Observatory and UC Santa Cruz' Optical Shop, Mechanical Shop and Center for Adaptive Optics. Membership in the ATS is not required.

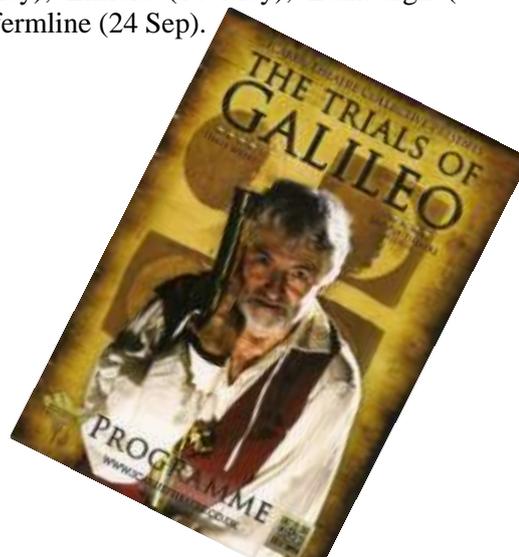
### Science, Technologies and Material Culture in the History of Education (Liverpool)

[Annual Conference of the History of Education Society](#) (UK) at Liverpool Hope University, 20th-22nd November 2015

Often the history of science and technology and the history of education have been written at a remove from each other despite being intimately connected. This conference aims to bring these two significant and related areas of historiography into closer dialogue with one another.

### The Trials of Galileo

Icarus Theatre Collective production, by Nic Young, starring Tim Hardy. This [excellent stage performance](#) still has some UK dates left in its successful international tour—including Forest School, London (6 May); Enfield (14 May); Edinburgh (6-30 Aug); Dunfermline (24 Sep).



## e-News CONTACT DETAILS

Communications relating to SHA e-News should be sent to the **Editor**: [enews@shastro.org.uk](mailto:enews@shastro.org.uk)

General communications to the Society should be sent to the **General Secretary** (Bob Bower): [membership@shastro.org.uk](mailto:membership@shastro.org.uk)

## GREENWICH SPRING CONFERENCE Speakers and Chairs



**Bill Sheehan**



**Mike Frost and Kevin Kilburn (joint Chairs)**



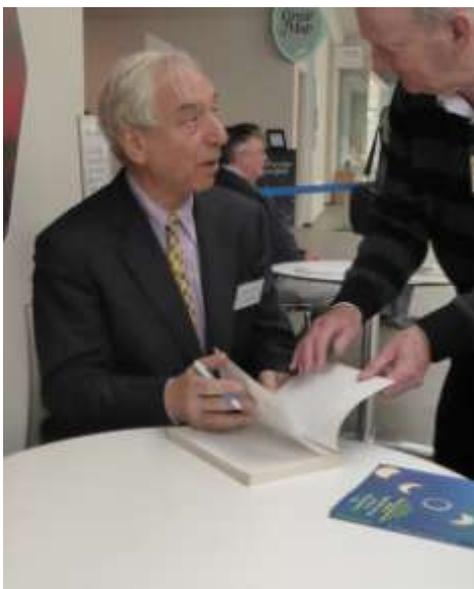
**Stuart Clark**



**Bob Marriott**



**Kevin Johnson**



**Jay Pasachoff**



**Anthony Kinder**

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## SUMMARY DATES FOR THE DIARY

### 2015 MEETINGS

**18 Apr.** Harrison Decoded: Towards a Perfect Pendulum Clock conference, National Maritime Museum Greenwich, London). Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News*.

**24–28 Jun.** 12th Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop—NDXII (Indiana. USA)

**19 Jun. –18 Oct.** Maya: revelation of an endless time exhibition, World Museum (Liverpool). Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News*.

**Sat. 4 Jul.** SHA Summer Picnic at Woolsthorpe Manor. Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News*.

**23–28 Aug.** 9<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena, Gresham College, London. Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News*.

**9–12 Oct.** 24th Annual Convention of the Antique Telescope Society will be hosted at Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton, CA (USA). Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News*.

**Sat 31 Oct.** SHA Autumn Conference and AGM, at the BMI in central Birmingham.

**20–22 Nov.** Science, Technologies and Material Culture in the History of Education conference, Liverpool Hope University. Further details are given elsewhere in this *e-News*.

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