

Society for the History of Astronomy



SHA Autumn Conference and A.G.M. 2019 Saturday 26th October 2019

John Lee Theatre, Birmingham & Midland Institute,
Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

| Time | Speaker | Subject |
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| 09.30 to 10.00 | | REGISTRATION Morning Refreshments will be available in the Gallery Room |
| 10.00 | Gerard Gilligan, Chairman, SHA | Welcome to the BMI (Fire Regulations & Housekeeping etc.) |
| 10.00 to 10.30 | SHA COUNCIL | 2019 Annual General meeting All members and guests welcome |
| 10.30 to 11.30 | Heather Sebire | Stonehenge, archaeoastronomy and the Moon |
| 11.30 to 12.30 | Alexandra Loske & Robert Massey | Moon: Art, Science, Culture |
| 12.30 to 13.30 | | LUNCH BREAK Delegates are asked to make their own arrangements. There is an excellent cafeteria upstairs; pub nearby etc. |
| 13.30 | Gerard Gilligan Chairman SHA | Welcome back |
| 13.30 to 14.30 | Melanie Vandenbrouck & Louise Devoy | The Moon as muse: the ideas and inspiration behind The Moon exhibition, Royal Museums Greenwich |
| 14.30 to 15.30 | Bill Leatherbarrow | Patrick Moore & Our Volcanic Moon |
| 15.30 to 16.00 | | AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS Tea or coffee and biscuits will be provided |
| 16.00 to 17.00 | Allan Chapman | The Moon, the Telescope, and the Transformation of Astronomy after 1609 |
| 17.00 | Gerard Gilligan Chairman SHA | CONCLUSIONS & DISPERSAL Safe Journey home |

The 2019 SHA Autumn Conference will be celebrating the Moon; it will be 50 years ago that man first stepped onto our nearest celestial neighbour. The Agenda, and Minutes of the 2018 AGM, will be published in advance. **Booking and payment in advance please:** at £10 per person for members, £15 per person for non-members. **To pre-register** complete the form attached, or contact our Meetings co-ordinator: meetings@shastro.org.uk

Speaker Biographies



Dr Heather Sebire is currently a Senior Historic Property Curator for Stonehenge at English Heritage working with all the sites held in guardianship within the Stonehenge and Avebury and associated World Heritage site.

Heather is a currently Honorary Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London of which she is a Fellow, and a former Council member the Prehistoric Society and the Royal Archaeological Institute. She is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the 'Paysages des mégalithes' project to inscribe the many sites at Carnac in Brittany, France as a World Heritage site.

Current personal research interests include the legibility and life history of monuments, particularly addressing how monuments are presented to the public. Other research interests include the Neolithic period focussing on megaliths along the Atlantic façade and island archaeology. Heather has published many journal papers and several books on many aspects of archaeology and heritage management.

About the talk. Heather will give an introduction to the origins of Stonehenge and the part it has played in UK archaeoastronomy. We will be given a detailed look at the stone circles and their alignments to nature, and in keeping with the theme of the day a more detailed look at the sites' connection to the Moon. Heather will also touch on the solstice alignments and that of the equinoxes. Finally the obvious parallels between Stonehenge, and our understanding of it, with other sites in Britain and Ireland will be described.



Dr Alexandra Loske is a writer, curator and art historian specialising in late 18th and early 19th century European art and architecture. She was born and grew up in Germany, where she studied literature and linguistics at Humboldt University Berlin, before moving to England in 1997. She has been working at the University of Sussex since 1999, where she teaches in the department of Art History and completed her PhD in 2014. Alexandra has lectured and published widely on colour, colour theory

and art. Since 2015 Alexandra has been the curator of the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. Her fascination with the Moon was sparked by the ubiquitous presence of the Moon in Romantic painting and literature. In 2017 she approached astronomer Dr Robert Massey with the idea of writing a book about the Moon in art and science, resulting in the publication of **Moon: Art, Science, Culture**, in time to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

About the talk. Humans have been fascinated with our nearest heavenly body, the Earth's Moon, since prehistoric times. In 2019 it will be 50 years since we set foot on the Moon during the Apollo space missions. Join astronomer Dr Robert Massey and art historian Dr Alexandra Loske for an illustrated talk about how our obsession with the Moon has manifested itself in the sciences and visual arts, from earliest ritualistic drawings and objects, Romantic symbolism and silent movies, to scientific observation, photography, and space race propaganda.



Dr Robert Massey is the Deputy Executive Director of the Royal Astronomical Society. Robert, who has a PhD in astrophysics, was appointed as the RAS Press and Policy Officer in November 2006, and became Deputy Executive Director of the Society in 2010. He previously held the posts of Public Astronomer and Astronomy Information Officer at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich (ROG).

Robert regularly appears on TV and radio to explain various aspects of modern astronomy and space exploration, and despite a busy professional and family life in his home city of Bristol, still manages to get his ageing telescope out to look at the Moon, planets and stars. He continues to have an active interest in astronomy education, and has written a number of articles on astronomy for various publications, including **Moon: Art, Science, Culture** with Dr Alexandra Loske.



Dr Melanie Vandembrouck, Lead Curator, *The Moon*, Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG), and guest curator, *Moonlight*, Hasselblad Foundation. Melanie is an art historian and curator. At RMG, Melanie is responsible for the art collection post-1800. She has curated a number of collection displays and artist interventions, worked on the redevelopment of the Queen's House as an art gallery for its 400th anniversary, and is a judge of the Insight Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition. One of her current focusses is to develop the contemporary art collection, particularly

as related to astronomy, and to the human impact on the environment. Prior to joining Royal Museums Greenwich, Melanie worked in the Print & Drawings Room at the Courtauld Institute of Art and in the Sculpture Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Melanie is interested in the porosity between art forms and media, cross-cultural exchanges, and the collision of art and science. These, it turns out, chime together intriguingly harmoniously in our relationship with the Moon.



Dr Louise Devoy, Team Curator, *The Moon*, and Senior Curator of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. Louise's role as curator involves cataloguing collections, researching the history of the Observatory, answering public inquiries, giving talks, updating displays and creating new exhibitions. Louise is responsible for the collection of historic astronomical instruments at the Royal Observatory.

After studying Physics with Astrophysics at the University of Leicester, Louise went on to undertake postgraduate studies in the history of science at Imperial College London before embarking on an PhD on the interpretation of the history of science within museum displays. Louise has since worked in several national museums in the UK and in the USA.

Louise's research focuses on astrolabes, sundials, quadrants and astronomical compendia from the Early Modern period.

[Image credit: © National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London]



Professor Bill Leatherbarrow is retired professor of Russian and Slavonic Studies at the University of Sheffield. Bill first joined the BAA in 1965 and as well as serving as the current Director of the BAA's Lunar Section, was also the BAA's president from 2011-2013.

Bill was a close friend of Patrick Moore, initially drawn together by their love and fascination with our moon. Bill has authored numerous papers and books and in 2016 a minor planet was named Leatherbarrow after him by the International Astronomical Union.

Bill has recently published a new book on the Moon charting the development of lunar observation and science and exploring the importance of our satellite for our understanding of Solar System history. He also contributes a regular bi-monthly 'Moonwatch' column to the magazine 'Astronomy Now'.

Bill's talk will take us on a journey of our moon's volcanic history, and how some believe that volcanism had played a much greater role in its past than we now believe.



Dr Allan Chapman is a graduate of the Universities of both Lancaster and Oxford, and received his D.Phil. from the University of Oxford. Allan has been a long-standing member of the Faculty of History at the University of Oxford, based at Wadham College.

Allan is accustomed to talking to professional and lay audiences alike and has published widely on the history of science, with a particular interest in the history of astronomy and the history of medicine. As well as being a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, Allan is a founder member and Honorary President of the Society for the History of Astronomy.

[Image credit: Helen Fairweather]