



**A Special Message from the Chair**  
The Society for the History of Astronomy  
c/o Birmingham Midland Institute  
9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

Dear Society Member,

**Re: Cancellation of In-Person 2023 Spring Conference – Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

You may be aware that a new series of national rail network strikes have been announced for 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> March and also April 1<sup>st</sup>. Following consultation with members of SHA, speakers, the BMI venue and also some delegates, we have reluctantly and sadly decided to cancel this face to face meeting as original planned. However it will be replaced with a reduced half day conference to be delivered online via Zoom™

This rearranged conference was forced on the SHA due to the uncertainty on the availability of public transport on the agreed meeting date of April 1<sup>st</sup>, and that several of the original speakers do depend on trains running to travel to Birmingham. We also wished to contact several SHA members, who had already sent in booking forms and made payments to secure a place for the meeting. This notice was also to allow cancellation of bookings and refunds for overnight accommodation and transport fares to be obtained for both speakers and delegates.

If you have sent in a booking form and arranged a booking payment to SHA, and not been contacted by me, do please make contact as soon as possible using this email address: [meetings@shastro.org.uk](mailto:meetings@shastro.org.uk)

You will be offered the choice of either transferring your spring booking and payment to the 2023 Autumn Conference October 21<sup>st</sup>, converting your payment into a donation to the SHA or requesting a full booking payment refund.

The rearranged shorter online zoom conference will be half day beginning at 1pm and the new timetable is as follows, with the kind agreement and cooperation of the speakers:

Times are for guidance only and subject to change.

1pm – Miss Megan Briers with the presentation - “Nineteenth-century Astronomical Fieldwork”

2pm – Mrs Carolyn Bedwell FRAS with the presentation – “*William Ludlam, (1717 – 1788) – A Leicester Astronomer*”

**3pm – Break for tea/coffee and refreshments (not provided sorry) Please make your own arrangements.**

3:30pm – Ms Carolyn Kennett FRAS will deliver the first Michael Hoskin Memorial Lecture with the presentation – “The Dolcoath Mine Experiments: Airy and Whewell and the attempts to Weigh the World”

Each presentation will be followed by a Q & A, and we would ask all those you can attend online via zoom to turn off both your computer audio and video to maintain the online bandwidth during the presentations. Online link details will be made available to paid up SHA members in the days leading up to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

This rearrangement has been force onto the Society, and the circumstances are beyond our control, but we do hope are other face to face meetings and events can go ahead as planned later this year.

Any questions or details on request: [mmeetings@shastro.org.uk](mailto:mmeetings@shastro.org.uk)  
28.02.2023

With Best Wishes  
Gerard Gilligan  
Chair – The Society for the History of Astronomy.  
Web site: <http://www.shastro.org.uk/>