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## MAY 2017

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm VICTORIAN SLIDES AND MOUNTERS (PART I)** by Tim Newton and Mike Gibson. An introduction to some of the notable microscopists of the Victorian era: There will be a presentation by Tim and Mike and a chance to look at a selection of slides from the Society's collection, augmented by Tim's entomological collection. **MIC**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm OUT AND ABOUT.** A fun photographic safari around a prescribed route in Northampton town centre, taking set photos to bring back to the rooms for comparison. **PHO**

**6<sup>th</sup> Saturday 11:00am. METEOROLOGICAL CAPABILITIES OF THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY** We will be joined by Steve Colwell from British Antarctic Survey who will be telling us about the meteorological capabilities of the British Antarctic Survey and update us with the latest news about the Halley research station. Steve was recently awarded the Polar Medal and hopefully he will be bringing that for us to see as well. **MET**

**6<sup>th</sup> Saturday** Today we take our first visit to **SPRATTON**. Meet at 11.00am for Centrebus No 60. Refreshments obtainable at Spratton. **SW**

**8<sup>th</sup> Monday 7.30pm TELESCOPIC TOPICS.** These are our members' meetings for which participation is invited. It's a forum to discuss new observations, equipment and techniques. If you've got any astronomical problems bring them along for some help. We'll try to present some themed observing inspiration and if the weather's helpful do a little practical urban astronomy too, so bring your binoculars and telescopes. Guests are very welcome. **AST**

**10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.30am - 2.30pm OPEN HOUSE** The Humfrey rooms will be open for members and guests to chat and study the literature and exhibits. Tea and coffee available.

**10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2.30pm 7+1 WONDERS OF THE WATERWAYS** by Colin Ford. Colin will tell us about some very old, and some relatively new, treasured places on our wonderful waterway system. Among them are the very old Bingley Five Rise locks on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, the Anderton Boat Lift in Cheshire, and the Millennium project rotating Falkirk Wheel in Scotland. **ARC/HIS**

**10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm IN - HOUSE EVENING.** A two part evening. To compare last week's safari photos, and for club members to present any photos they would like to share with the group. **PHO**

**11<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm THE ENIGMA OF ELGAR'S MICROSCOPE** It is not widely appreciated that the eminent composer Sir Edward Elgar was an amateur scientist and microscopist of some distinction. An illustrated audio-visual presentation by Mike Gibson about the man, his music and his microscopes. **GEN**

**11<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7.30pm THE MAIN SOCIETY AGM** Members welcome.

**13<sup>th</sup> Saturday** This week's choice is the village of **KISLINGBURY**. Meet for bus SC D3 at 1.02pm. Drinks available after the walk. **SW**

**16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2.30pm EARTHS ORBIT AND THE CAUSES OF THE SEASONS AND CLIMATE** It seems quite warm but we are still in an ice age. What is behind the weather and climate? What causes Ice Ages? We will learn about the Earth's orbit and its effects on the affairs of man and animals. What does the future hold. Plus the following weeks provide a chance to see noctilucent clouds, how to photograph them. **MET**

**16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm VICTORIAN SLIDES (PART II)** by Tim Newton and Mike Gibson. Another chance to view slides from our own collection and others: Tim will be setting up a couple of microscopes using illumination methods favoured by our Victorian forebears, including the use of a 'bull's-eye' lens, to enable us to see the slides as they would have seen them. Then he will show you how to reproduce these effects on more modern microscopes - demonstrating such techniques as dark ground,

critical oblique and condenser-less illumination. **MIC**

**17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm PRINTS FINAL 1 – JUBILEE CUP (COLOUR PRINTS) AND DIGITAL ART PRINTS** See the winning prints from the three rounds held during the year as they compete for the annual trophy. Invited Judge. Final Round **PHO**

**18<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm THE BUILDING STONES OF NORTHAMPTON.** A gentle walk starting at Castilian Terrace visiting the Drapery and Market Square, identifying some of the building stones used over the centuries in Northampton town centre, returning for a cup of tea at the rooms. **GEN**

**20<sup>th</sup> Saturday MOULTON** holds its annual Festival today. Meet for bus SC 10 at 1.20pm. Tea and cake after our walk in the local meadow. **SW**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday. 11:00am A walk in BEDFORD PURLIEUS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE.** Grid Ref. (Meeting place.) 53(TL)039005. Directions: Meet at Grid Ref. 53(TF)03.9;00.5, on the west side of the wood. Ancient woodland. We hope to see Toothwort here; a rare parasitic flowering plant. Full day meeting, no facilities; bring a nose-bag. The leaders are Seán Karley. 01933-225397 and Roger Warren. **BOT**

**24<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm SPRING SOCIAL EVENT. OUT AND ABOUT.** we will take advantage of the longer evening to go out and take some photos, finishing up at a pub for a convivial nightcap. Members may bring along guests. Look for details and booking instructions on the photo section notice board in the Humfrey Rooms. **PHO**

**25<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm** Lecture to be announced. **ZOO/ORTH**

**27<sup>th</sup> Saturday** We make a return visit to **WICKSTEED PARK**. Meet for bus SC X4 at 11.20am. Take a picnic or use the park's café. **SW**

**31<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm PRINTS FINAL 2 – VIC SEATON CUP (MONOCHROME PORTRAIT), AND MONOCHROME GENERAL** Another chance to see the winning prints from the 3 preliminary rounds as they compete for the annual trophy. Invited judge. Final Round **PHO**

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## JUNE 2017

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 11:00am ENERGY FROM WIND AND WAVE POWER** We will look at the weather over the last month followed by a review of Green Power; Power from Waves, Wind, tides and solar farms. **MET**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** The famous and attractive city of **CAMBRIDGE** has been chosen for this year's day trip. The fare for members is £12 and £15 for non-members. Pick up times and points will be:- 9.00am from Victoria Street; 9.15am from the Park end of Christchurch Road and 9.45am from Castle Way, Wellingborough, travelling with Collingtree Coaches. Depart from Cambridge at 4.30pm. For further details and to book a place ring 01604 646442. **SW**

**6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm POND LIFE (PART I), ALGAE INCLUDING DESMIDS:** by Mike Gibson. We shall reveal the structure and forms of these amazing (and surprisingly common) plants. Please bring your own samples if you have them, or we can supply. **MIC**

**7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm SET SUBJECT - TROPHY.** The final where the best images from the four preliminary rounds compete for the trophy. Invited Judge. Final Round **PHO**

**8<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm THE CUTTY SARK** The remarkable story of one of the last sailing clippers built for the China tea trade. A tale of record-breaking voyages, money, murder, mutiny and sad decline .. with her eventual rediscovery, tragic fire damage and restoration at Greenwich where it can now be seen in its full glory. **GEN**

**10<sup>th</sup> Saturday** Today we take a look round the new marina at **EARLS BARTON**. Meet for bus SC X4 at 11.50am. Take a picnic in case the proposed new café is not yet operational. **SW**

**12<sup>th</sup> Monday 7.30pm THE EUROPEAN EXTREMELY LARGE TELESCOPE** by Dr. Aprajita Verma. With a mirror 39m across the E-ELT will collect 13 times more light than the largest visible/IR telescopes today allowing us to peer deeper and further than ever before. In this talk, Dr Verma will describe the developments in telescope design that have led up to the forthcoming era of extremely large telescopes, in particular the E-ELT project which UK astronomers are playing a key role, and the ground-breaking science it will produce. **AST**

**13<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2.30pm A GENERAL WEATHER MEETING** We will take a look at some short presentations about weather from the Meteorological Office, TEDx and others. **MET**

**14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday OPEN HOUSE** See the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2.30pm NORTH EAST ENGLAND.** The presenter will explore the Island of Lindisfarne the home of the Lindisfarne. **ARC/HIS**

**14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm MEMBER'S NIGHT** A '15 minutes of fame' night for members to fill the evening with anything of their choice, as long as it has a connection to photography. **PHO**

**15<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm FOOL'S GOLD?** By Sue Barker. An exploration of the role that iron pyrite has played in the evolution of the Earth and its systems and in the development of civilisation. Does this mineral really deserve a name that implies it is intrinsically worthless? **GEN**

**17<sup>th</sup> Saturday** This week-end is when the Open Gardens and Flower Festival is held at **FLORE**. Meet for bus SC D2 at 1.14pm. Refreshments available in the village. **SW**

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday. 11:00am A WALK AT STOKE BRUERNE.** Meet in the car-park in the middle of Stoke Bruerne. Post Code NN12 7SQ. Grid Reference:- SP(42)47.5;50.0 We will walk South by the Grand Union Canal (West side) to the Brick Pits Nature Reserve. After visiting this we will continue South and cross the canal near the A508 then return North by the tow path. Pubs etc. in the village. The leaders are Seán Karley. 01933-225397 & Roger Warren. **BOT**

**20<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm POND LIFE (PART II) - ROTIFERS AND OTHER ANIMALS** by Mike Gibson. During this session we concentrate on the microscopic animals found in our ponds and puddles including water butts, gutters and even bird baths! Bring your own samples if you can so we may compare what is available from different habitats. **MIC**

**21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 8.00pm. MONOPOD COMPETITION** A set subject competition for religious subjects from any faith. A competition held in honour of Mrs Humfrey's interest in church photography. Up to three entries per person, any mix of prints or projected images. **TROPHY PRESENTATIONS** The evening concludes with the presentation of the annual trophies. **PHO**

**24<sup>th</sup> Saturday BRAFIELD – ON – THE – GREEN** is a very pretty village for a midsummer stroll. Meet for bus SC 41 at 12.49pm. Refreshments provided after the walk. **SW**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF MICROSCOPY,** Including sales, exhibits, talks and Photo competition: This is another opportunity to meet with fellow microscopists and enthusiasts from around the country and also to see what's on offer in the way of sales items. Why not bring along an exhibit of your own? Sales and exhibits in the morning and lectures in the afternoon. Please contact Mike Gibson for further information. **MIC**

**26<sup>th</sup> Monday 7.30pm TELESCOPIC TOPICS.** These are our members' meetings for which participation is invited. It's a forum to discuss new observations, equipment and techniques. If you've got any astronomical problems bring them along for some help. We'll try to present some themed observing inspiration and if the weather's helpful do a little practical urban astronomy too, so bring your binoculars and telescopes. Guests are very welcome. **AST**

**29<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm** Lecture to be announced. **ZOO/ORTH**