BATH ASTRONOMERS REPORT TO THE 2014 AGM OF THE WILLIAM HERSCHEL SOCIETY

Bath Astronomers is the observing arm of the William Herschel Society. We are

a small group of keen amateur astronomers living in or near Bath. Our particular interests vary – some of us are interested primarily in visual observing, others in imaging, and others again in telescope design and manufacture.

Unlike most astronomical societies, we do not generally schedule observing sessions ahead on a regular basis, because the weather in this part of the world is too unpredictable! Instead we plan observing sessions just a few days in advance, based on the weather forecast and other factors. We have two types of observing session:

* Our own Bath Astronomer sessions, at a variety of dark sites near Bath.
* Open sessions at Wellow, 8 miles south of Bath , generally around the first quarter of the Moon, to which the 60 odd interested individuals on our mailing list are invited.

We had 6 Bath Atronomers Sessions in 2013, with most observation targets depending mainly on the season, but also including Comet PaNSTARRS in April, and Nova Delphini in August. We tried, but failed, to observe the near approach of Asteroid DA14 in February.

We also had 2 Open Observing Sessions at Wellow, with up to 10 guests who were shown the main objects of interest visible at the time.

Two further activities of note:

* With the Herschel Museum’s permission we observed Uranus through their Herschel Replica Telescope in December (with the assistance of laser guidance!)
* Also in December we assisted in a Childrens’ Science Workshop at the BRLSI by conducting observations of nebulae and star clusters in real time but remotely with the 2 metre Faulkes Telescope based in Australia.

Charles Draper

Coordinator, Bath Astronomers

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