

The Observatory

The David Le Conte Astronomical Observatory is open alternate Tuesday evenings for members' informal gatherings and observing if the sky is clear. It is in Rue du Lorier, behind the large bunker which is about 100 metres up the road from La Houquette School. Telephone 264252.

The meeting room includes seating for up to 20 people, a wall-mounted projector, computer with fibre internet access and astronomical software, a library and basic kitchen.

A separate purpose built, timber-framed with a roll-off roof houses a permanently-mounted computer-operated 16-inch Meade research-grade Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and a 5-inch Takahashi refractor which when clear members can observe through.



The Summer Milky Way (J.M. Dean)

Outside there is a mixture of lawned and hard surfaces for members to set up their own telescopes.

Meetings and observing activities

The Section meets alternate Tuesdays, from around 8.30pm. If the weather is clear then there will typically be viewing through the telescopes. Otherwise, there may be a short presentation on an astronomical topic by a member or a virtual lecture looking at current astronomical topics or space missions.

Impromptu meetings may be held when the skies are clear and occasionally there are special events, such as eclipses.



Comet Hale-Bopp (1997, David Le Conte)

The Observatory library contains a large collection of books, which members can borrow. The Section has subscriptions to a monthly astronomical magazine, and is a member of the British Astronomical Association and the Federation of Astronomical Societies.

If you are interested in joining, we suggest that you first come along to one or two of our Tuesday meetings as a guest.

Membership benefits - how to join

Members receive a regular Bulletin that gives details of all upcoming meetings, tips on what is currently in the night sky, updates on current space missions and other useful information.



The Horsehead Nebula (J.M. Dean)

Members also receive an annual newsletter, *Sagittarius*, which contains details for observing events for the coming year and other astronomy-related articles.

To become a member of the Astronomy Section please go to the La Société Guernesiaise website where you can join:

<https://societe.org.gg>

Remember, you do not have to know anything about astronomy to be a member – just have an interest in the subject. If you have a telescope, but are not sure how to use it, you can bring it along and we will assist you.

Outreach activities

Public open events are held during the year. They may be either in the evening to view the night sky or during the day to view the Sun. For the evening events they include observing with the telescopes and a talk in the meeting room. Many locals, children and visitors attend these events. The observatory is run by members as volunteers and a small donation is suggested to help with running and maintenance costs.



The Observatory hosts many educational outreach events where children and youth groups can learn about the Solar System, deep space, astrophysics and cosmology.

The Astronomy Section also runs lectures and courses on stargazing, the Solar System and astrophotography. To see our events, subscribe to our Eventbrite page and you will receive a notification when we post new activities:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/la-societe-guernesiaise-astronomy-section-31040695447>

Events are also advertised on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AstronomyGuernsey>

Did you know?

- You are made of star-stuff. The lighter atoms in your body are made inside stars and the heavier atoms are created when stars explode!
- The furthest object you can see with the naked eye, the Andromeda Galaxy, is over two million light years away.



The Andromeda Galaxy (J.M. Dean)

- Colours of stars indicate their surface temperature. Blue stars are hot, red stars are cooler.
- We are moving eastwards at 675 miles per hour as the Earth spins on its axis once every 24 hours.

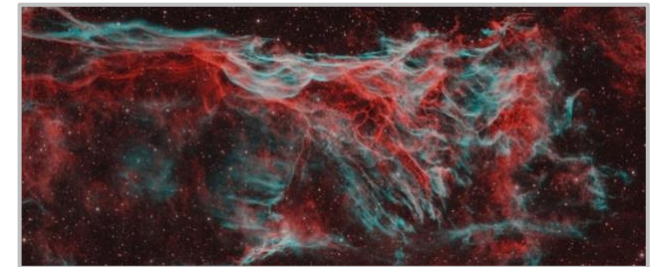


Guernsey's astronomical society is a Section of La Société Guernesiaise. An active group of some 70 members, the Section runs the David Le Conte Astronomical Observatory, and welcomes anyone with an interest in astronomy, whether beginner or more experienced.



For full details visit our website:

www.astronomy.org.gg



Pickering's Triangle supernova remnant (J.M. Dean)