

HALF-DAY ASTRONOMY COURSE

How to Choose and Use Your New Telescope

Saturday, 25th November, 2017

THE SOUTH DOWNS PLANETARIUM, CHICHESTER

Tutor: Dr John Mason

Technical Advisors: To be confirmed

PROGRAMME

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| 1.00-1.30 pm | ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION & TELESCOPE SET-UP |
| 1.30-1.45 pm | WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
The purpose of the half-day course and what we intend to cover. |
| 1.45-2.10 pm | TYPES OF TELESCOPE – HOW THEY WORK
Refractors, reflectors and compound telescopes. How they collect and focus light. The relative importance of light grasp and magnification. |
| 2.10-2.35 pm | TELESCOPE MOUNTS – SETTING UP AND HOW TO USE THEM
Types of telescope mounts. How to put your telescope together, where to site it for observing and how to line up the mounting. |
| 2.35-3.00 pm | EYEPIECES, FINDERS & ACCESSORIES
Importance of eyepieces. Choosing and using eyepieces. Correct use of magnification. Fitting, aligning and using finderscopes. |
| 3.00-3.30 pm | FINDING OBJECTS IN THE SKY – PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS
We go into the Planetarium dome to learn how to find your way round the night sky, how to locate objects in the telescope viewfinder and the eyepiece, and using a drive to compensate for the Earth's rotation. |
| 3.30-4.20 pm | TEA/COFFEE BREAK and
WORKSHOP SESSION to focus on key issues requiring solution.
Discussions with our telescope experts to focus on the key issues and problems that people want to solve, then working together to solve as many of these problems as we can in the time available. |
| 4.20-4.30 pm | REVIEW OF COURSE
Any key issues brought up in the group workshop session. What has been useful from this course, and what are the next steps for all of the delegates. |
| 4.30 pm | CLOSE |