



Obituary

Peter W. Parish (1951–2020)

Peter William Parish was born on 1951 February 14, became interested in astronomy at the age of nine and joined our Association in 1970 while still a teenager. He lived close enough to London to attend our meetings frequently, particularly the Exhibition meetings that used to be held once per annum, and we would often have a conversation then. He contributed a good number of regular visual observations to each of the planetary Sections over nearly four decades, from 1977 until quite recently. He concentrated his efforts upon Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, but also enjoyed finding Venus in daytime with binoculars.

Peter lived at Rainham, Gillingham, Kent. He used a 102mm refractor and a 222mm reflector, often also observing with the 152mm refractor belonging to his local astronomical society, for which he served as programme secretary for around 13 years. He gave talks to other organisations, including schools as well as scout and guide groups. He was a good artist and his observations, always reliable and accurate, were appreciated by the various planetary Section Directors. Two of his Mars drawings made during an aphelic opposition are shown here, giving an indication of his skills.

Peter was adept at describing his observations, and his report of *not* having observed the 2012 solar transit of Venus is wonderfully typical of British stoicism [*Journal*, 122, 197 (2012)]. Fortunately, he was able to enjoy many successful observations, including the spectacular 2004

solar transit of Venus and, most recently, two total solar eclipses, including one in 2017 which he observed from Wyoming in the western USA [127, 253–254 (2017)]. He was also interested in spectroscopy, geology and natural history. The Parish family would always visit any local zoo when on holiday abroad, and Peter's broad scientific enthusiasm was transmitted to all members of the family.

Peter's wife Mrs Valerie Parish writes that she met Peter through a mutual interest in astronomy: 'I wrote an essay in French saying I wanted to marry an astronomer, and as Peter's mum was my French teacher she introduced us...' That was in 1969; Peter and Val married in 1975. They had two children. Peter's death on 2020 December 8 was sudden and unexpected, and we offer our sincere condolences to his family. 📖

Richard McKim, Mars Section Director

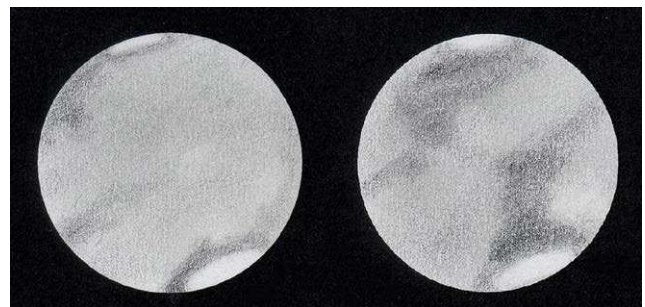


Peter Parish. Karen Martin

► Two Mars drawings made by Peter in 2010 with a 152mm OG, ×214.

Left: Jan 17, CM = 108°, with Solis Lacus on the Sp. side.

Right: Jan 26, CM = 017°, with Sinus Sabaeus, Margaritifer Sinus, Mare Acidalium and the bright Argyre basin all prominent. Note the large N. polar cap in both views.



New members (Cont'd)

► JUNGERS Jay, Bromley
McEWAN Tom
McNEIL James, Gloucestershire
MOORE Aaron, POLAND
MORRONE Luigi, Napoli, ITALY
NAGLE John R., Louisiana, USA
NCUBE Mike
OATES David, Wirral
PEARCE John, Warwickshire
PRIMM Michael, Travis, USA
PRINCE Cosmo, Gloucestershire
REEVES Colin, Devon
SEATON Mark, Greater London
SHELDON Nicholas
STEIN Jenny
STEIN Robert
STEPPE Robert, Mecklenburg, USA
THOMAS Neil, CO, USA
TOMNEY Jim, Baltimore, USA
TRANK Randy
TROW Allan, Rhondda Cynon Taf
TWAITES Ian, East Sussex

WHITEHEAD Nik, Glamorgan
YOUNIS Mazin, Manchester

2020 December 5

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CAREY Andrew, Powys
CASTELVECCHI Caitlin, North Ayrshire
CHARRON Marc, South Ayrshire
COOLE Arran, Croydon
DAVIS Simon
DUNCAN Joshua
FARMER Jim, Southampton
GRUNDY Stephen
HUBBARD Andrew, Kent
JONES Peter, Wirral
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KORDE Rohit, Maharashtra, INDIA
LITHERLAND Kelly, Shropshire

LITHERLAND Mark
MASSEY Sandra, Essex
McLOUGHLIN Graham, Lancashire
MEADOWS Neil
MORELAND Jeff, Cambridgeshire
PARKS Frank, California, USA
PITTAWAY Michael, Gloucestershire
PRICE Raymond, Derbyshire
PROVOST Michael, Nottinghamshire
REID David, Oxfordshire
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ROTHAMMER Ronald, West Lothian
SHEPHERD Michael, Essex
SHIPTON Michael, Devon
SMITH Ian, Wiltshire
STEELE Iain, Wirral
STEENKAMP Andre, West Sussex
STEWART Richard, Nottinghamshire
THOMPSON Charles, Staffordshire
TURNER Steve, Hertfordshire