

Editor: Mrs Hazel McGee

Papers Secretary: Nick James

The *Journal* is published six times per year, in February, April, June, August, October & December.

Library subscription (UK and surface mail overseas): £50.00. To purchase single copies or individual articles please see www.britastro.org/journal.

The Association is not responsible for individual opinions expressed in articles, letters, reviews or reports of any kind. Material published in the *Journal* does not necessarily express the views of the Council.

Contributions

Papers should be sent by e-mail (preferred) or by post (three copies) to the Papers Secretary at the address shown inside the back cover of each issue. They will be refereed, and, if approved by Council, published as soon as reasonably possible. Those wishing to speak at a meeting should contact the Meetings Secretary.

All other contributions should be sent to the Editor. As well as *Letters to the Editor*, she will be pleased to receive contributions to *Observers' Forum*, particularly interesting astronomical photographs, drawings and images. Colour images are especially welcomed. Photos and media will be returned only if a suitable stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.

Advertisements

Small advertisements should be sent to the Office, accompanied by the appropriate remittance. Members' small advertisements are FREE and may be sent directly to the Editor by e-mail.

Display advertisements and loose inserts: For a rate card and further information, contact Mrs Ann Davies, 11 Sedgefield Rd., Greenham, Newbury, Berks. RG14 7TZ. Tel. 01635 30598. E-mail anndavies@dsl.pipex.com.

Deadlines

All material, including short letters and notes, must be received by the Editor by the following dates:

 Issue
 Date

 2012 April
 2012 February 25

 2012 June
 2012 April 25

 Later dates apply, by arrangement, to electronic advertising copy for which space has been reserved.

Membership of the BAA

The annual subscription for ordinary membership of the Association for the 2011–2012 Session is £45.00. For details of concessionary rates, and other membership information, see page 41 of this issue. Subscriptions are due on 1st August each year. Members who pay UK income tax are encouraged to complete a Gift Aid certificate in order to benefit the Association, which is a registered educational charity. The annual subscription to posted BAA Circulars is £5 (UK).

Published by:

The British Astronomical Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0DU Tel: 020-7734 4145

World Wide Web home pages: BAA: http://www.britastro.org/ Journal: http://www.britastro.org/journal/

Journal © British Astronomical Association 2012. Individual articles, illustrations etc. remain the copyright of the author or photographer, whose permission must also be obtained before reproduction.

ISSN 0007-0297

Printed by the Magazine Printing Co., Enfield, EN3 7NT



2012 February Vol. 122 No. I

Contents

Refereed papers

Charles Lewis Brook: third Director of the BAA **Variable Star Section** Jeremy Shears 17 The grazing occultation of Jupiter on 2012 July 15 31 Jean Meeus Building a model astrolabe Dominic Ford 33 A 'honeycombed Moon': O'Neill's Bridge and other lunar arches and tunnels Bill Leatherbarrow 42. Superhumps and post-outburst rebrightening episodes in the AM CVn star SDSS J012940.05+384210.4 Jeremy Shears et al. 49

Index to the Journal, Volume 121 (2011)

R. A. Marriott facing

32

3

15

Notes and News
A spectacular Christmas comet in southern skies
From the President
Venus in 2011–2012: second interim report
Solar Section

Denis Buczynski & Nick James
Bill Leatherbarrow
Richard McKim
Lyn Smith

Communicating astronomy: a special event at the Rutherford Appleton

Laboratory

Newbury Astronomical Society

Observing basics: I

Choosing and using binoculars for the travelling astronomer Stewart L. Moore 11

Letters 14
The hypochromatic refractor revisited John Wall
The 'Hyperstar' optical corrector Peter Howard

avious

Patrick Moore's yearbook of astronomy, 2012 (Moore & Mason)
Transit of Venus: 1631 to the present (Lomb)

The chemical cosmos: a guided tour (Miller)

The casual sky observers's guide (de Laet)

Martin Mobberley

Mike Frost

Roger O'Brien

Geoffrey Johnstone

Meetings 53
Out of London Meeting, Norwich, 2011 May 7

Out of London Meeting, Norwich, 2011 May 7
Ordinary Meeting, 2011 May 25
The George Alcock Memorial Lecture, 2011 May 25:

'Observing through the light'

Gary Poyner

Observers' Forum 57

Comet C/2009P1 Garradd: the long view
Two open clusters in Cancer
The lunar eclipse of 2011 December 10

Denis Buczynski & Nick James
Stewart L. Moore
Martin Griffiths, Abdu Arishi

Sky notes for 2012 February & MarchCallum Potter60Membership information41Meetings diary & small advertisements62Officers and Council63

On the cover

Image by Lester Barnes of comet Lovejoy, C/2011 W3, in bright dawn twilight on 2011 December 23, taken from Port Lincoln, South Australia. 1 minute exposure at ISO 800 with Canon 20Da camera and Canon 50mm lens at F3.2.

See article on facing page.

