

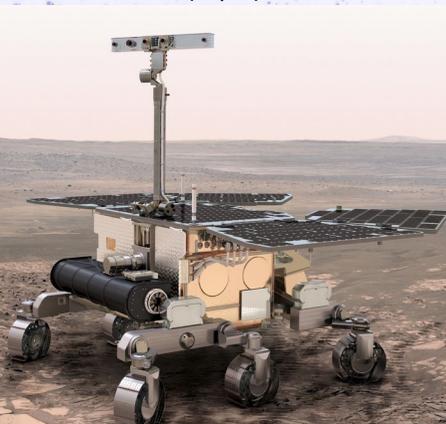


BAA Spring meeting, Chelmsford, Saturday, April 30

Robotic exploration of the Solar System

We are living in a golden age of Solar System exploration. In 2015 the New Horizons spacecraft flew past Pluto, Rosetta continued its extraordinary exploration of comet 67P, there are rovers and orbiters exploring Mars, the Cassini spacecraft is still making its audacious tour of the Saturnian system and Dawn is in orbit around Ceres. All of these missions and more are returning amazing data. In 2016 we will see many other exciting developments including a planned "landing" of Rosetta on its comet, the Grand Finale of Cassini, the launch of the first of Europe's Exomars spacecraft and NASA's Juno arriving at Jupiter. Many other missions are planned.

With the rapid evolution of the Internet amateurs can follow these missions in greater detail than ever before and can even participate in generating science, both through analysing data products from the spacecraft and through supporting observations from the ground. The objective of this meeting is to discuss current and future mission plans and how amateurs can play a part.



This is a joint meeting with our hosts, the North East Essex Astronomical Society and it will take place at Chelmer Valley High School, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 7ER. The city of Chelmsford is closely associated with these missions, from developing on-board cameras to providing ground station systems. The school has its own observatory which should allow us to observe the Sun if it is clear. The complete programme is:

- Prof. Mark McCaughrean (ESA) - ESA's Solar System exploration programme
- James Canvin - Amateur use of Solar System spacecraft data
- James Hannan - An introduction to the NEAS
- Dr. Geraint Jones (MSSL/UCL) - The ESA JUICE mission to the icy moons of Jupiter
- David Morris (e2V) - Designing cameras for deep space missions
- Nick James - Ground-based amateur observation in support of planetary missions
- Dr. John Mason - New Horizons, science at the edge of the Solar System

Doors open at 9:30am and the meeting will run from 10:15am - 6:00pm. Chelmsford railway station has frequent trains from London, Liverpool Street and buses run from the station to within a short walk of the venue. The entry cost is £3 (members of the BAA/NEAS and affiliated societies), £5 (non-members) and £2 (accompanied children under 16). This includes tea and coffee. An optional buffet lunch is available for £9 if booked in advance. There is parking on site.

Further details and a booking form are available online at <https://www.britastro.org/chelmsford2016>.