

BAA Winchester Weekend **2026 April 10-12**

Friday April 10

15.00 – 18.00 Reception – book in at Hampshire Rural Business Centre

19.00 Dinner

20.15 Welcome and Introduction

20.30 How amateur astronomers can contribute to exoplanet research

Prof Don Pollacco (Professor of Astronomy, University of Warwick)

21.30 Observing if clear or visit the bar

Saturday April 11

07.30 – 09.00 Breakfast

09.15 Visual Observing of Variable Stars

John Toone (Chart Secretary of the Variable Star Section)

10.00 Results and Developments in Stellar Occultations by Asteroids

– entering a new era of observation

Tim Haymes (Assistant Director of the Asteroid and Remote Planets Section)

10.45 Coffee/Tea break

11.15 Deep Sky observing: past, present, and future

Jim Latham (Council member, and Assistant Director of the Deep Sky Section)

12.00 Still Chasing Rainbows – A Spectroscopic Progress Report

Robin Leadbeater

12.45 Break

13.00 Lunch

14.15 Control of dew and thermal management of telescopes?

Martin Lewis (Equipment advisor and Assistant Director of the Mars Section)

15.00 Reminiscences of Winchester Weekends

Richard Flux and Alan Dowdell

15.30 Coffee/Tea break and Cake

16.00 Projects for planetary observers

Dr Richard McKim (Director of the Mars Section, and BAA archivist)

16.45 A Common Cause – Clear and Dark Skies

Howard Lawrence, Jim Verner, Stewart Langdown, Paul Gibson, Valerie Russell (Commission for Dark Skies)

17.30 Break

18.00 Dinner

- 19.30 **The Alfred Curtis Lecture**
JWST as a New Voyager for the Giant Planets
Prof Leigh Fletcher (Planetary Scientist and Director of Research and Enterprise for the School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leicester)
- 21.00 Observing if clear or visit the bar

Sunday April 12

- 07.30 – 09.00 Breakfast
- 09.15 Thermal Imaging of the Moon – A Hot Topic**
Dr Tony Cook (Director of the Lunar Section)
- 10.00 Getting the best out of a cheap refractor and The Sun in Motion**
Simon Dawes and Gordon Ewen
- 10.45 Coffee/Tea break
- 11.15 The 1896 eclipse expedition to Norway.**
Bill Barton (Founder member of the Society for the History of Astronomy)
- 12:00 What have comets ever done for us?**
Nick James (Director of the Comet Section)
- 12.45 Break
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.15 Members' session**
Your opportunity to talk briefly about what you've been doing during the past year.
- 16.00 Coffee/Tea and Goodbyes**