

# **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 Observational challenges**

*Dr Paul Abel and Pete Lawrence*

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**