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Chair

West Yorkshire
Astronomical Society

W.Y.A.S.

WEST YORKSHIRE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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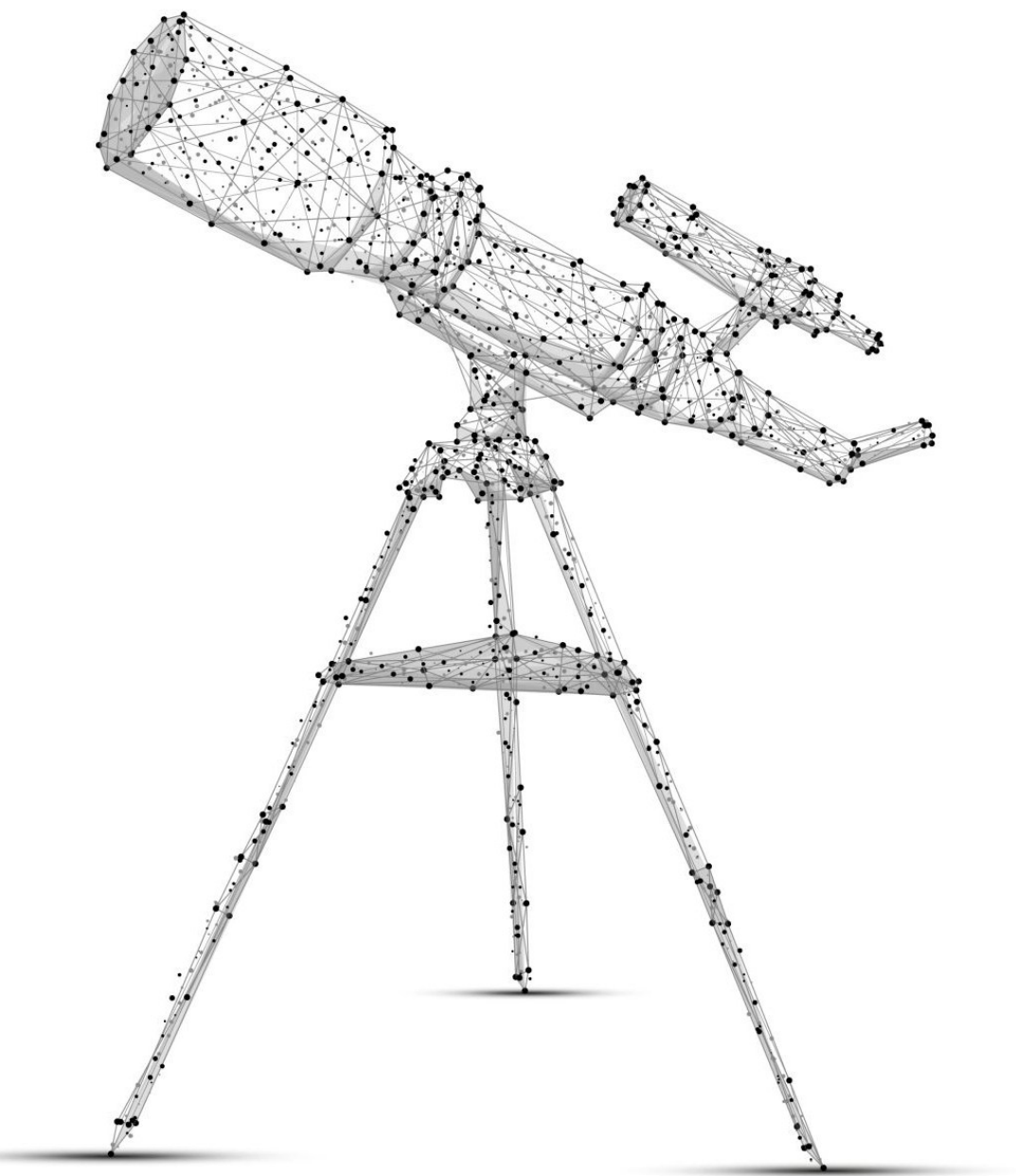
E-mail: wya@wya.org.uk ★ Registered Charity No. 500313

Joining a Society such as WYAS and by doing so:

“Becoming Part of Something Bigger”

- Can I convince you to join a society such as ours in the next few minutes?
- Probably not!
- But I might be able to make you think about it!





First let's think about the level of interest you may have when it comes to astronomy, either you: -

- Are not really interested. [Seeing as you are here, I don't think this one applies!](#)
- Always had a passing interest in space and astronomy.
- Purchased a small telescope and now use it very (very) occasionally.
- Have a good quality telescope and probably use it just for visual observations. You may class it as one of your hobbies.
- Have at least one high quality telescope (usually more), which you use as often as possible, most probably/exclusively for astrophotography. You see yourself as an amateur astronomer.
- Were once really interested so you "bought all the gear but you had no idea" and it is now in the garage, in the loft, in the way! You lost your way.

You can all probably identify with at least one of the above statements!

It doesn't matter what your level of interest may be, as a Society, WYAS can inspire all of the above.

For most people keeping their interest going on their own can be hard and that interest may soon fade. So, what can you do about it?

The first thing would be to visit your local Observatory or Society on a public open evening, meet and talk to the people there and find out more about what goes on.

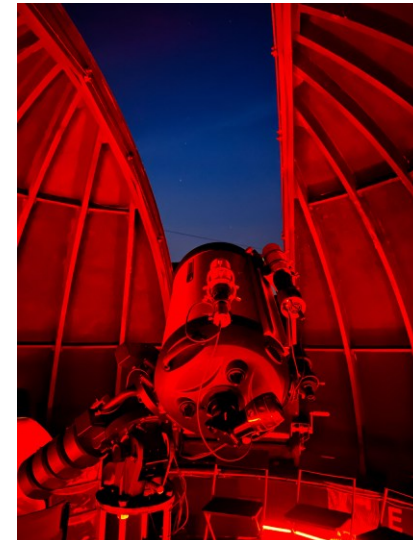


Rosse Observatory

As a visitor on one of our open nights you will:

- Pay a small entry fee, which is all put back into the running of the observatory
- Be given a tour of the facility
- See various amazing images produced by members, mostly from their back gardens
- Get the chance to look at and hold actual meteorites
- Be shown at least a couple of astronomy related videos, plus explanations from members
- If you want, sit in on a members talk on that night
- Climb the steps up into the observatory's dome, see and learn about the telescopes in there, and if the weather is clear, see what's visible in the night sky
- Go outside on to the “pad” and look at and use a range of telescopes, weather permitting
- Be able to bring your own telescope and learn how to set it up and use it correctly
- Be encouraged to ask as many questions as you want about astronomy or our equipment
- Have the opportunity to get a hot or cold drink

As you can see there is plenty going on for visitors, they are often very popular nights



As a member of WYAS you will:

- **Meet up with and be amongst like-minded people**
 - Reinforces your interest in the subject
 - Gets you support as, and when its needed
 - Get advice on various subjects
 - Problem solving when you have issues
 - Developing your skills and knowledge
 - Socialising with other enthusiasts



Social Evening Feeding Frenzy!

As a member of WYAS you will:

- **Be able benefit from the knowledge of experienced members**
 - Setting up your scope and equipment correctly
 - Learn to maintain your scope to keep it working at its best
 - Improving your set up, simply by trying better eyepieces for instance
 - Learn to identify and view objects in the night sky
 - How To advice



If you have a question, we have the answer!

As a member of WYAS you will:

- **Be able to access a range of resources**
 - The observatory building itself, Dome, Imaging room, Lecture room
 - The “pad” to set up on, located just outside the observatory with power, red led lighting
 - Use of and loan of a range of scopes and accessories
 - High end computer for processing your data
 - Processing software, including “how to” tutorials



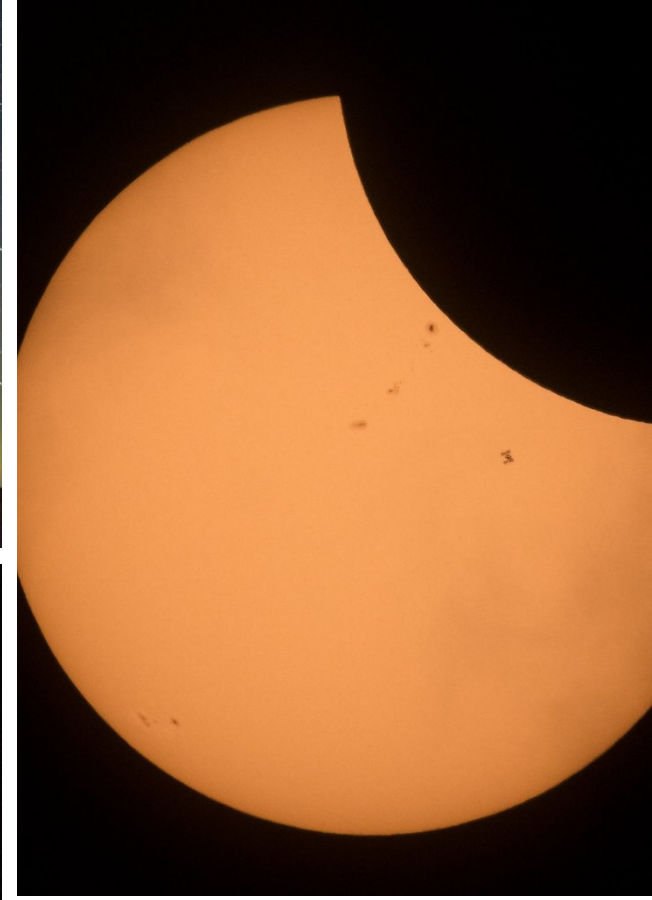
As a member of
WYAS you will:

- **Have the chance to listen to guest speakers**
 - Gain knowledge about different aspects of astronomy
 - Learn about the history, the current and the future of astronomy
 - Listen to “Space News” talks by our members
 - Have the chance to ask questions to experts in their field
 - Request a subject for a future talk



As a member of WYAS you will:

- **Be able to participate in organised events**
 - Celestial, meteor showers, eclipses, transits etc
 - Familiarisation in the use of new equipment
 - Astrophotography lessons
 - Collaborations such as this one with the BAA and SPA
 - Members social night meet ups
 - Targeted subjects like Galaxy Zoo



As a member of WYAS you will:

- **Have access to discounts**
 - On weekly subs as apposed to what a visitor would pay
 - Invited speakers
 - From retailers when purchasing equipment
 - Use of specialist equipment as needed



It's always good to save some of this!

As a member of WYAS you will:

- **If you want to, be encouraged to get involved in improvement programs within the society**
 - Helping with the installing and setting up of new equipment
 - Help maintain the telescopes ready for use
 - Having a say about what goes on at the observatory
 - Involvement in events like today
 - Help maintain and care for the observatory

Action shots between Tea Breaks!



In Summary

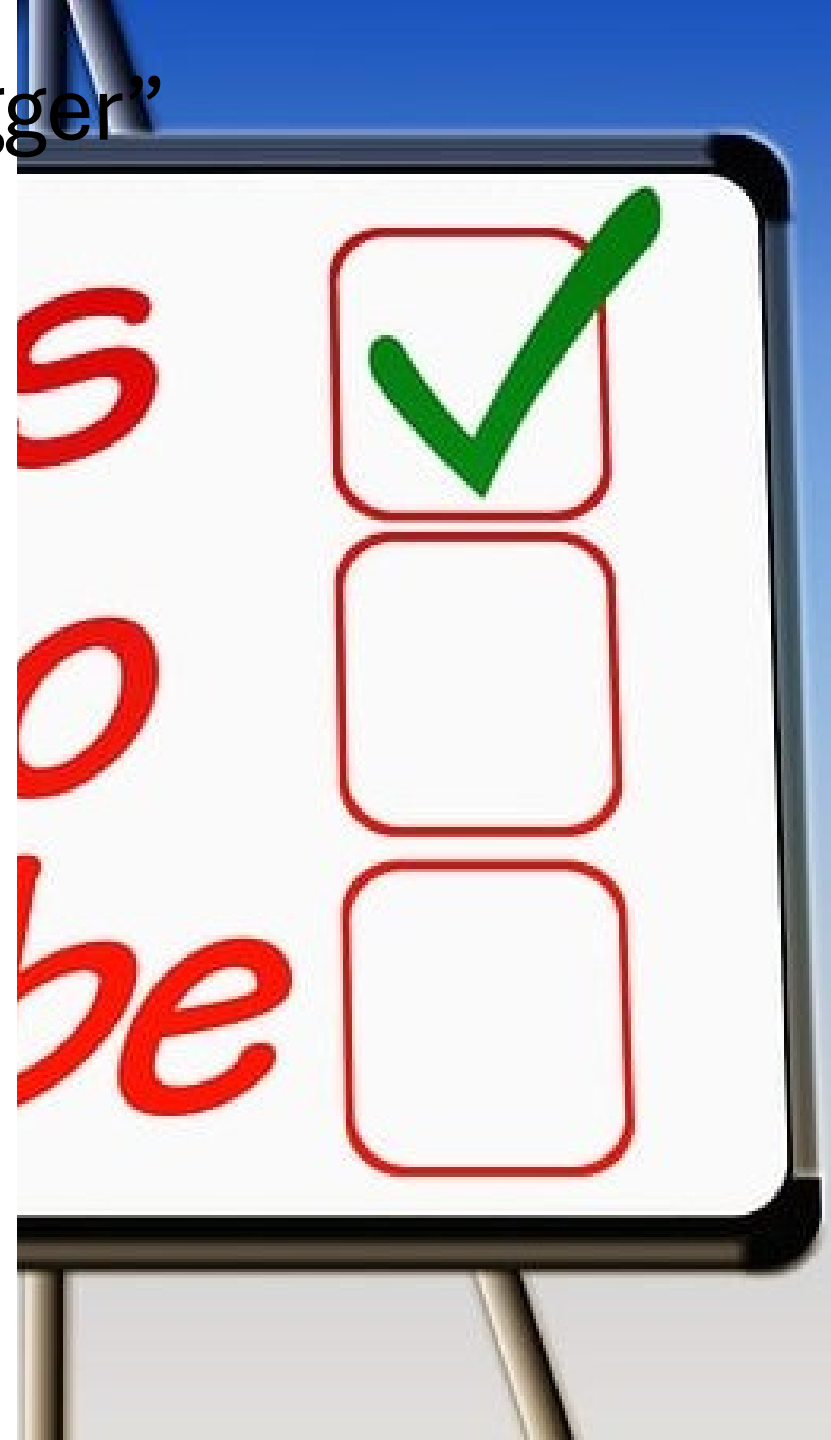
- It doesn't matter what your level of interest or skill, a Society can improve both. You will learn more!
- The observatory is a welcoming and inclusive place full of everything you would need to develop as an astronomer
- The Society have friendly and knowledgeable members to cover all astronomy related subjects
- The observatory has the equipment and resources for all types of interest or specialisation
- The Society wants you to bring your own equipment to get the best out of it
- The Society does not stand still; It is always looking at improving what can be offered to our members. Including these sorts of collaborations with the BAA and SPA.



“Be Part of Something Bigger” Join a Society

**There is a lot a Society
can and does offer**

- Have I convinced you to join a society such as ours?
- Maybe, maybe not....
- But hopefully I have shown you enough for you to think about it!



Thank you for
your time

West Yorkshire
Astronomical Society

