

Night School Courses at Sherwood Observatory

Enrol Now! Mansfield & Sutton Astronomical Society will be holding a series of non-accredited astronomy courses throughout 2023 & 2024. Consisting of 6 Friday evening sessions from 7:30pm, these will be held at our Sherwood Observatory facility, Coxmoor road, Sutton In Ashfield. For a small sum of £50 (adults) and £25 for under 18's will enable you to attend 6 sessions. An assigned tutor will present a lecture-based talk on the topics listed below. Also, weather permitting you will have the opportunity to view the night sky using our 24-inch Newtonian reflecting telescope, housed in a dome, atop of a spiral staircase. Places are limited so please get in touch, either via secretary@sherwood-observatory.org.uk or course@sherwood-observatory.org.uk. More information is available at www.sherwood-observatory.org.uk or leave a message on 01623 552276. Alternatively pick up a course enrolment form and send back to us at the address shown.

2023 Course dates

Date	Tutor	Topic
20/10/2023	TBC	The Night Sky- A beginner's guide
27/10/2023	Gary Levers	Objects in the night sky
10/11/2023	Rob Dawes	The Planets
17/11/2023	Rob Dawes	Moons of the Solar System
24/11/2023	Chris Milhouse	The Universe pt. 1
01/12/2023	Chris Milhouse	The Universe pt. 2

2024 Course dates

Date	Tutor	Topic
23/02/2024	Nigel Cunnington	Radio Astronomy pt.1
01/03/2024	Nigel Cunnington	Radio Astronomy pt.2
08/03/2024	TBC	Optical Astronomy pt.1
15/03/2024	TBC	Optical Astronomy pt.2
22/03/2024	Peter Jenkins	Astrophotography pt.1
05/04/2024	Peter Jenkins	Astrophotography pt.2



The Night Sky: A two-part lecture and practical session. Expect to start at the beginning and learn how to understand and navigate the night sky. From identifying stars, constellations you will see how the cosmos changes over the course of one year. A guide to equipment to get started viewing the night sky & you will get to know the basics of a typical telescope operation. Also, you will discover that between the stars is vast array of beautiful objects of interest, from fuzzy objects that constitute star forming regions to exploded stars and galaxies.

The Solar System: This two-part lecture will take you on a tour of the solar system looking at the planets in detail, prepare to be amazed by the wealth of detail and imagery obtained from decades of space-based missions. Also, the second lecture will focus in on the individual Moons of the Solar system, each unique in their own right & some with the potential to harbour life.

The Universe: This two-part lecture will take you right from the beginning of the universe. Starting at the big bang will allow you to establish a sense of the timeline of our journey that has brought up to present date, 13.7 billion years in the making. You will understand what some of the largest structures are - from the cosmic web to the classification of galaxies. This course topic will be delivered by longstanding member Chris Milhouse. Chris has a wealth of experience in delivering talks on this subject matter and you will be in good hands to learn of our place in the cosmos.

Radio Astronomy: This fascinating branch of astronomy will be delivered in a two-part lecture and practical session. You will develop an understanding of the basics of the subject and how at Sherwood observatory we are able to monitor and detect meteors in the night sky, as well as monitoring the Sun for solar activity. Course tutor Nigel Cunnigton is a passionate member & trustee of our society and heads the Radio Astronomy Centre, expect a thoroughly entertaining and informative two-part session!

Optical Astronomy: This two-part lecture will give you a wonderful insight into the world of optical astronomy - from the very first telescopes to some of the biggest & most current in the world. Also, you will understand how telescopes, both land based and in space will soon be able to search for bio-markers for potential life outside of the solar system.

Astrophotography: A two-part lecture delivered by well-known astrophotographer Peter Jenkins, a qualified professional photographer, now retired he has mastered the art of this subject, so much so Peter regularly features in nationwide magazines on the subject and has delivered multiple talks for astronomical societies. Also, appearing on stage at main annual events such as the International Astronomy Show. Peter's talent and stunning images has earned him a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAS) in 2017. Expect to learn all about art of taking photographs of the night sky from the basics right up to modern day techniques.