



AstroSoc in front of the Lovell Telescope from when visiting Jodrell Bank Observatory



AstroDuck relaxing with some of the campus waterfowl

ASTROSOC

The University of York's Astronomy Society is one of the friendliest and most well-loved societies on campus, and thanks to the amazing ongoing developments on the Astrocampus and within the Physics department, we have access to some fantastic equipment and resources. The Astronomy Society gladly welcomes University of York students with an interest in Astronomy regardless of your level of knowledge in the area.

This year is going to be an exciting time to be involved in AstroSoc. Our new mascot, AstroDuck, is going to be carried to the edge of space by a weather balloon, launched towards the end of Term 1. It's going to be a great project to get involved with! We hope to get some footage of the ascent, as well as some scientific data on the upper atmosphere, for our upcoming Duckumentary.

We also hold trips across the country, such as last year's trip to the Jodrell Bank Observatory. Visiting the huge radio dish outside Manchester was an awesome and educational experience for all of our members, and we hope to visit some other astronomy hotspots around the UK in the upcoming year - such as the Greenwich and Edinburgh observatories.

As well as projects such as this, our committee members are frequently involved in public open days and events on the Astrocampus. We are all enthusiastic about astronomy and the latest news in our field! If you come along to any of our events, you are sure to learn something new.

Astronomy is one of the most exciting areas of science thanks to the rapid advances being made every day. Even as NASA's rovers crawl through the dust of Mars and ESA's Rosetta probe makes contact with its comet, we use more and more complex and interesting methods to map our universe as it appears from Earth. The stars haven't changed much since the days of the ancient mariners, who sailed across oceans using them as guides, but our technology has changed so that we can learn a great deal from our observations.

With every new discovery, more questions and conundrums are raised. Astronomy is a self-perpetuating circle of curiosity and delight, and there is no better place to give it a go than with York's very own AstroSoc.

Cameron Spence & Adam Shore
AstroSoc

SUMMER FUN

We may be missing our students but summer is still lots of fun when you have new toys! We are just finishing the installation of a new radio telescope which will scan the skies looking for hydrogen and methanol. Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the Universe and with careful measurements we can use it to map the spiral arms of our galaxy. Methanol on the other hand is usually only found when massive stars are being formed: think star factories like the Orion nebula.

We have also taken down and polished the main dome covering the 14 inch telescope. It now looks like a silver

spaceship ready to take off!

As we welcome students back, we also gear up with new weekly openings and some fabulous outreach events. Keep an eye out for Yornight (yornight.com) where you can meet John Goodricke, catch a show in the cosmodome or try on a real spacesuit. Check the website and twitter (@Yornight2014) for all the details.

Best Wishes and Clear Skies!

Dr. Emily Brunsten
Director of Astrocampus



UPDATE

Despite all the building works, Astrocampus has still been busy this summer with Year 12 students from local schools working on four-week long Nuffield research projects.

Alistair and Lawrence have been using the radio dipole antenna and the radio telescope in order to learn the techniques that are used in radio astronomy to study the Universe. With the radio dipole antennas, they identified radio wave activity from both Jupiter and the Sun. They observed several solar flares as well as a potential burst from Jupiter. They used the 3m radio telescope to observe methanol and the Sun.

Laura and Sam have been working on the Astrocampus with the Spectrohelioscope, looking at the Sun in different wavelengths of light. They had an incredibly sunny first two weeks and got some good data looking at the full visible spectrum of the Sun. Then, using MATLAB, Photoshop and other programs, they have pieced together a full spectrum and analysed it as a graph. "It's been very exciting and we've enjoyed working on the Astrocampus with the equipment."

The students did some fantastic work and we look forward to running projects again next summer with another group of talented and enthusiastic students.

Katherine Leech
Outreach Officer
Department of Physics

EVENTS

September	18	Astrocampus Opening
	23	Autumn Equinox
	26	Yornight
October	4 - 10	World Space Week
	9	Astrocampus Opening
	16	Astrocampus Opening
	23	Astrocampus Opening
	30	Astrocampus Opening

For details on our open nights and to make a booking, please go to www.astrocampus.org.uk

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